
6
Kio Shimoku
GENSHIKEN
The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture

WHERE THE BOYS ARE

Ogiue is determined to sell her own doujinshi at the next ComicFest. What genre is she attempting? Why, a gay romance—starring none other than Madarame and Kanji Sasahara! But when Saki-san catches a glimpse of one of Ogiue's sketches, she gets the wrong idea. Now Saki is convinced that Ogiue is in love with Kanji, and she's dead set on playing Cupid. Meanwhile, as Madarame and Tanaka prepare to graduate, Kanji is about to become a busy senior. He's ready to step down from the Genshiken oval office, but who will take over the role of club president? Here's a hint . . . can you say *cosplay*?

Includes the Genshiken doujinshi, Project G, and other special extras after the story!



U.S.A. $10.95 CANADA $14.50

ISBN 0-345-49154-8 GRAPHIC NOVEL

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GENSHIKEN



KIO SHIMOKU

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
Michaelis/Carpelis Design



BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

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A Del Rey Trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by
Del Rey Books, an imprint of
The Random House Publishing Group, a
division of Random House, Inc., New York.

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Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2005 by
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

ISBN 0-345-49154-8

Printed in the United States of America

www.delreymanga.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Translator/Adaptor—David Ury
Lettering—Michaelis/Carpelis Design Associates Inc.
Cover Design—Dreu Pennington-McNeil

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific, and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men amongst friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "—sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It
connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: Usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

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KIO SHIMOKU

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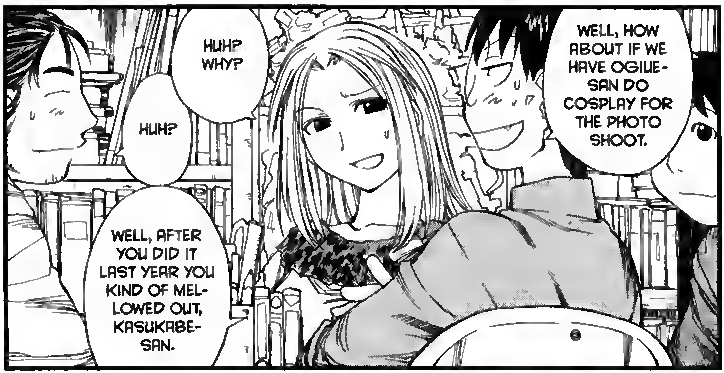

THE COSTUMES THAT FEMALE CHARACTERS WEAR IN GAMES AND ANIME ARE JUST SICK REPRESENTATIONS OF PERVERTED MALE FANTASIES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY WEAR THOSE THINGS AND THEN POSE FOR PICTURES.
WHEN YOU DO COSPLAY, YOU TAKE ON THE IDENTITY OF THE CHARACTER.
NOT JUST THE WAY THEY LOOK ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THEIR ENTIRE PERSONALITY AND FRAME OF MIND.

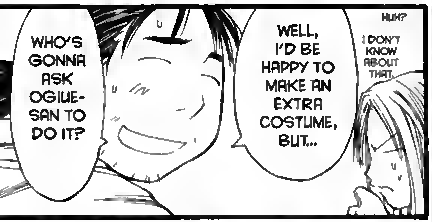

THAT'S TOTALLY ILLOGICAL. HOW WOULD THEIR FRAME OF MIND SHOW UP IN A PHOTO?
IT SHOWS UP JUST FINE!!


SAKI-SAN, LAST YEAR YOU CAPTURED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PERSONALITY PERFECTLY WHEN YOU DID COSPLAY
WILL YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO HER?
DON'T BRING THAT UP.

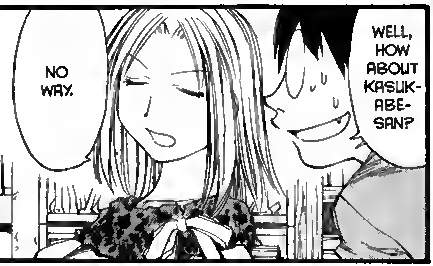

CHAPTER 31 :
KASHIMASHI
MUSUME +1


IS EVERYBODY OKAY WITH HAVING OHNO-SAN'S COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT AS OUR MAIN EVENT FOR THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
WELL, ANYWAY...
SOUNDS OKAY TO ME.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY COMING UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE?
IF YOU CAN.
UH-OH.
YOU'RE KIND OF TAKING OVER THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, AREN'T YOU?
WRHH
I WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY WE COULD JUST MAKE OHNO-SAN AND OGIWE-SAN GET ALONG.

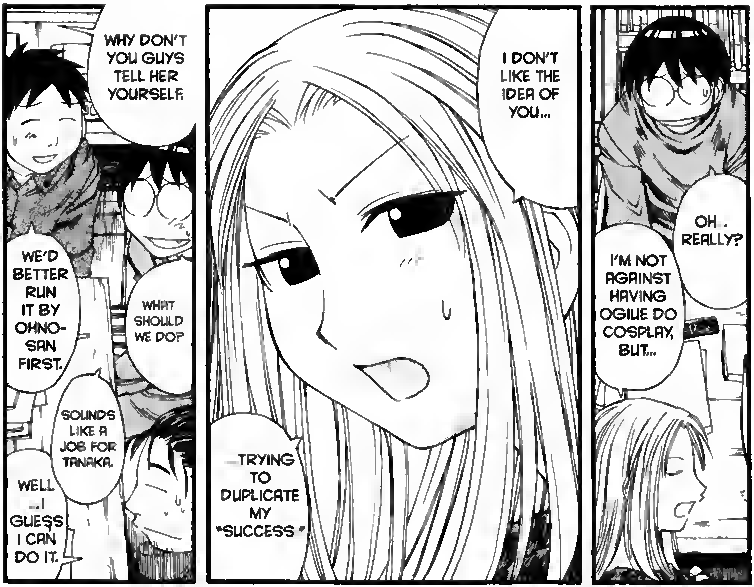

WELL, HOW ABOUT IF WE HAVE OGIUE-SAN DO COSPLAY FOR THE PHOTO SHOOT.
HUHP WHY?
HUH?
WELL, AFTER YOU DID IT LAST YEAR YOU KIND OF MEL-LOWED OUT, KASUKABE-SAN.


WHO'S GONNA ASK OGIUE-SAN TO DO IT?
WELL, I'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE AN EXTRA COSTUME, BUT...
HUH? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.




NO WAY.
WELL, HOW ABOUT KASUK-ABE-SAN?


REALLY ....I DID?
YOU DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT "DESTROY-ING THE GENSHIKEN" ANYMORE
AND YOU EVEN COME BY WHEN KOUSAKA ISN'T HERE.


I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU...
TRYING TO DUPLICATE MY "SUCCESS"
OH. REALLY?
I'M NOT AGAINST HAVING OGIUE DO COSPLAY, BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS TELL HER YOURSELF.
WE'D BETTER RUN IT BY OHNO-SAN FIRST.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR TANAKA.
WELL -- I GUESS I CAN DO IT.

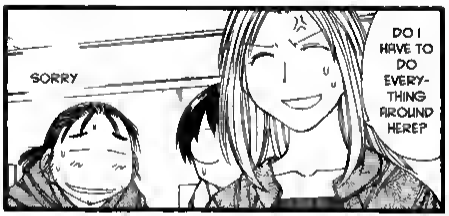

HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
SHOCK


HUH? IS THIS ONE RIMU?
THUMP THUMP
IS IT RENKO-CHAN?
KAMISHA-KUJI.
IS THIS A KUJI-IN SCHOOL UNI-FORM?
IT'S SO SMALL
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
TANAKA-SAN?
SHOCK
UH, I-I WASN'T TRY-ING TO HIDE THEM FROM YOU OR ANYTHING I MEAN LOOK THEY'RE NOT HIDDEN. SEE?
YOU ALWAYS CARRY THESE COSTUMES AROUND EVERY-WHERE?
NONE OF THESE CHARACTERS WOULD BE RIGHT FOR ME SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?
HUH? HUH?


KYAA


THE MUSIC CLUB
THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
LIVE LIVE LIVE


WHAT?
SO OHNO'S STILL BENT OUT OF SHAPE, EH? YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS AT ALL?
PRETTY MUCH.
THAT'S THE SAD TRUTH.
YEAH, WHATEVER.
LET'S BRING THE LIGHT A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT.
YES, SIR.


SORRY
DO I HAVE TO DO EVERY-THING AROUND HERE?

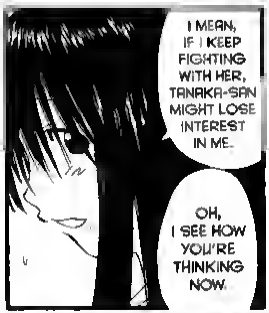

TANAKA.. YOU'RE SO PATHETIC.
WOULD YOU MIND TRYING TO CALM OHNO-SAN DOWN A LITTLE?
OKAY, I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON OGIUE SAN BUT—
SHE'S IN THE DRESSING ROOM OVER THERE.


G-GOOD MORNING
AH.
GOOD MORN-ING.
MORN-ING


LATE?
HUH? UH, NO.
I'M NOT LATE AM I?
IS SOME THING WRONG?


?


ARE YOU SURE?
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU'D SAY NO IF HE BROUGHT IT UP.
I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED


I MEAN, IF I KEEP FIGHTING WITH HER, TANAKA-SAN MIGHT LOSE INTEREST IN ME...
OH, I SEE HOW YOU'RE THINKING NOW.


I DON'T MIND HIM MAKING COSTUMES FOR OGIUE-SAN, BUT...
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF THAT HE TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM ME
HE MADE A BUNCH OF COSTUMES FOR YOU, TOO, SAKI-SAN.
WHAT? EWW, GROSS
THEY'RE RIGHT OVER THERE.


TANAKA MADE WAY TOO MANY.
WELL, I CAN SEE HOW THAT MIGHT PISS YOU OFF.
HE MADE ALL THE LOLITA CHARACTERS THAT I COULD NEVER PLAY. RIGHT?

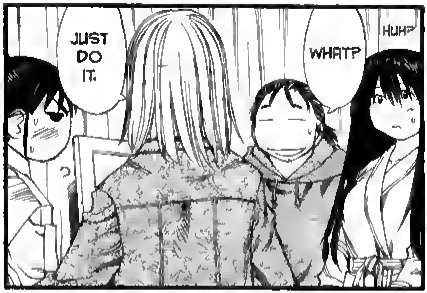

AND THAT ONE AND THAT ONE OVER THERE, TOO
AND THESE TWO.

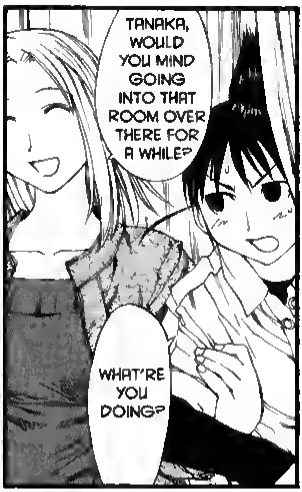

OH, AND THIS ONE


THIS ONE AND THIS ONE
BUT JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THESE COSTUMES HE MADE FOR OGIUE-SAN.


I THINK SHE'LL BE OKAY, BUT..
YOU'D BETTER GO APOLOGIZE TO HER, TANAKA.
HOW'D IT GO?
AH, HERE SHE COMES
OH, OKAY
SORRY, WE'RE NOT READY YET
I KNEW IT.
BESIDES, DOING COSPLAY MIGHT HELP HER GET OVER THIS.
IT WORKED FOR ME
HUH?
ACTUALLY, AFTER SEEING ALL THOSE COSTUMES..
NOW I REALLY WANNA SEE OGIUE IN COSPLAY
OH YEAH...
WHEN I BOUGHT MY OUTFIT
WELL, REMEMBER HOW SHE BOUGHT ALL THOSE CLOTHES JUST BECAUSE THE STORE CLERK RECOMMENDED THEM TO HER?
YEAH, BUT.. ISN'T IT TOO LATE?


I THINK I GET WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
WHAT'RE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
STORE CLERK?
WELL, I COULD BE A STORE CLERK.
HUH? OH, SURE
TANAKA, OHNO! CAN WE COME IN FOR A SECOND?
HEY, OGI. COME HERE FOR A SEC.
JUST COME HERE
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HOPE WE'RE NOT INTER-RUPTING ANYTHING.


JUST DO IT.
WHAT?
HUH?


TANAKA, WOULD YOU MIND GOING INTO THAT ROOM OVER THERE FOR A WHILE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

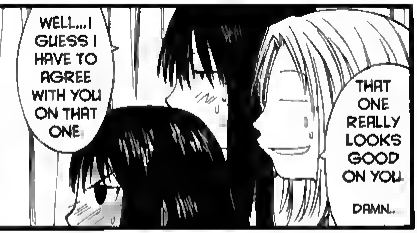

SHE IS.
HUH? DON'T TELL ME SHE'S—


YEAH, BUT YOU DIDN'T MAKE THEM
STILL...
WE WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF MAKING THESE, SO WE JUST WANNA SEE HOW THEY LOOK


WHOA, NOT BAD
HERE, STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR


LOOK AT THIS ONE.
GROSS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING? I'M NOT WEARING THAT THING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR IT. I JUST WANNA HOLD IT UP TO YOU.


HOW ABOUT THIS ONE? OOO, NICE!
LIKE THIS ONE.
YOU HAVE REALLY BIG EYES, SO YOU LOOK GREAT IN THESE CUTE OUTFITS.
SO CUTE.
LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THEM, BUT JUST LET YOUR HAIR DOWN.
OTHERWISE, I CAN'T TELL HOW THEY LOOK.
TRY LETTING YOUR HAIR DOWN
WHAT? NO...
UH...
DIDN'T YOU FORCE ME TO DO IT LAST YEAR?
IT'S AGAINST THE COSPLAY CODE TO FORCE SOMEONE INTO IT.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY AND STOP HER FROM DOING COSPLAY, ARE YOU, OHNO?
HUH? WHY?
I'M TRYING TO GET OGIUE TO DO COSPLAY.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SAKI-SAN?

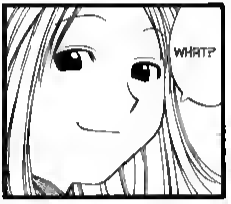

WELL...I GUESS I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT ONE.
THAT ONE REALLY LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
DAMN.




WHAT'S THEIR DEAL?
THEY'RE BOTH STARING AT ME

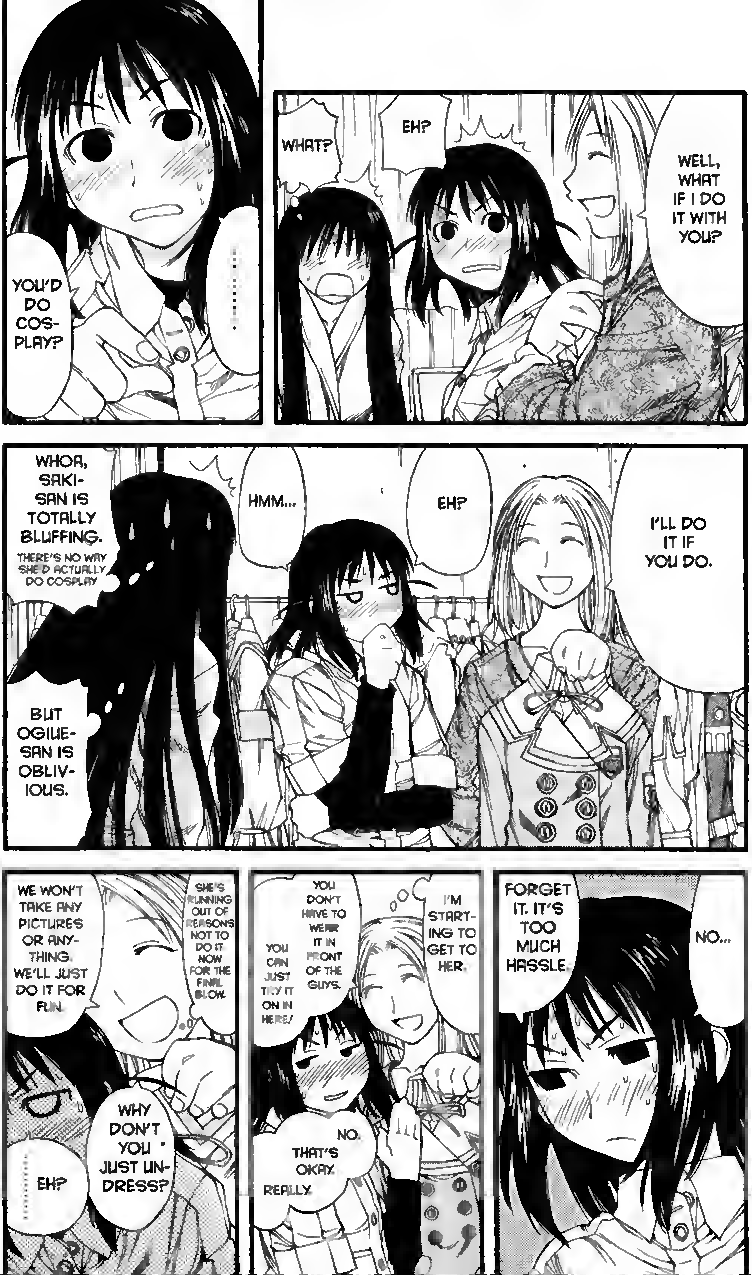

WHOA.


OH, DID YOU WANNA SEE SOME MORE?
SAKI SAN IS REALLY A PRO AT THIS.
WOW.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TRY ONE ON?
THAT'S OKAY. I'M REALLY NOT INTERESTED IN COSPLAY.
I WAS EVEN STARTING TO FALL FOR IT.


WHAT?


NOTHING

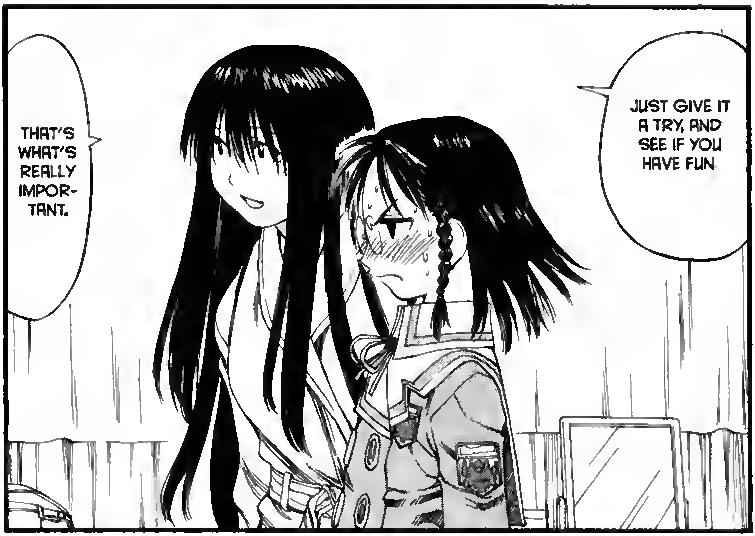

HUH?
OKAY, I THINK I GET THE IDEA.
SWIP
EH..
THANKS, THAT'S ENOUGH.

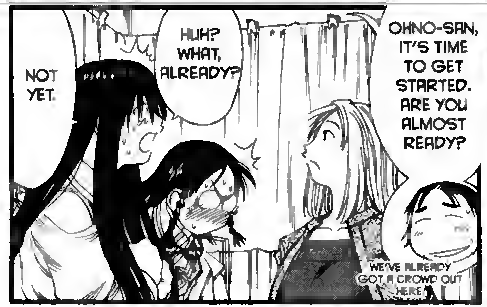

YOU'D DO COS-PLAY?
.....
WHAT?
EH?
WELL, WHAT IF I DO IT WITH YOU?
WHOA, SAKI-SAN IS TOTALLY BLUFFING.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D ACTUALLY DO COSPLAY
BUT OGIUE-SAN IS OBLIV-IOUS.
HMM...
EH?
I'LL DO IT IF YOU DO.
WE WON'T TAKE ANY PICTURES OR ANY-THING. WE'LL JUST DO IT FOR FUN.
SHE'S RUNNING OUT OF REASONS NOT TO DO IT NOW FOR THE FINAL BLOW.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST UN-DRESS?
.....
EH?
YOU CAN JUST TRY IT ON IN HERE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR IT IN FRONT OF THE GUYS.
I'M START-ING TO GET TO HER.
NO.
THAT'S OKAY. REALLY.
FORGET IT. IT'S TOO MUCH HASSLE.
NO...


I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE OFF.
THEN I'LL TAKE IT OFF FOR YOU.
HUH?
WHA—
FWUP
THAT'S OKAY. I CAN TAKE IT OFF MYSELF!
VICTORY
IF SAKI-SAN WERE A GUY, SHE'D PROBABLY GET A JOB SCOUTING GIRLS FOR PORNO MOVIES.
?
?
I CAN TAKE IT OFF MYSELF.
WHO KNOWS?
YOU THINK THEY'RE OKAY?
HMM


WOW. NOW THAT'S COSPLAY.
SHE EVEN PUT ON THE SHOES
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE RENKO-
EXCEPT FOR YOUR FORE HEAD.
UG- SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS
.R-REALLY CUTE
WHAT DO YOU THINK, OHNO?
UH..
YEAH, WELL..
SHE LOOKS PRETTY CUTE.


REALLY?
YEAH, SHE LOOKS REALLY CUTE, OKAY.
STOP TRYING TO MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF!
I FEEL SO EXPOSED IN THIS SKIRT.
AND THIS FABRIC LOOKS REALLY CHEAP.
HUH?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CHARACTER'S FRAME OF MIND.
THAT'S OKAY. YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK DOWN. THAT'LL COME LATER.
IT WILL?


JUST GIVE IT A TRY, AND SEE IF YOU HAVE FUN.
THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.


OHNO-SAN, IT'S TIME TO GET STARTED. ARE YOU ALMOST READY?
HUH? WHAT, ALREADY?
NOT YET.
WE'VE ALREADY GOT A CROWD OUT HERE!

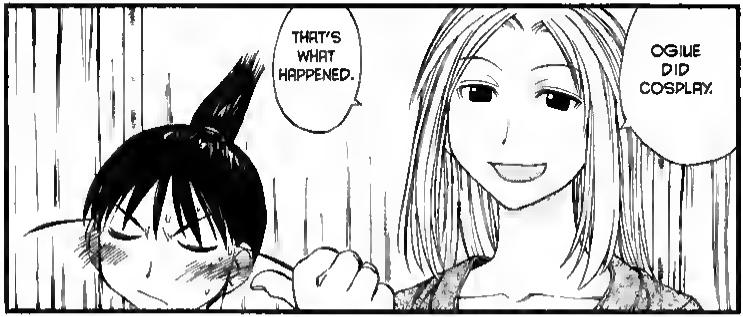



WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO OUT THERE LIKE THAT, OGI?
YOU CAN CHANGE WHEN I'M DONE!
HUH? BUT...
WILL YOU GUYS HELP ME GET IT ON?
NO WAY.

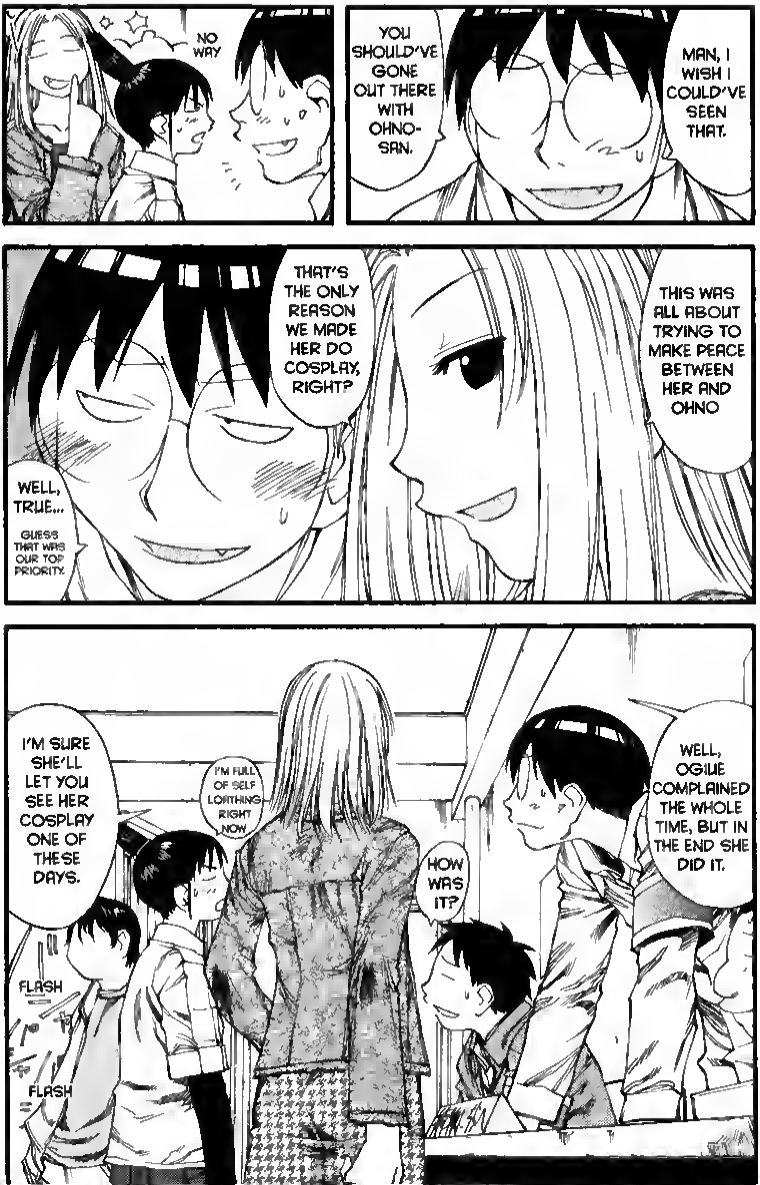

DO YOU NEED HELP GETTING IT ON? SHOULD I COME IN?
HUH?
NO.


バシャ
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
バシャ
バシャ


WHAT HAP-PENED?
AH, THERE YOU GUYS ARE
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH


THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
OGIUE DID COSPLAY.


NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST RENKO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT'S PERFECT ABOUT THAT?
OH, KAMI-SHAKUJII... THAT'S PER-FECT.
THAT ONE FROM KUJI-UN...
NO WAY... WHAT CHARAC-TER?
WHAT, SERI-OUSLY?
WHAT'S HER NAME?
RENKO KAMI-SHAKUJII.


NO WAY
YOU SHOULD'VE GONE OUT THERE WITH OHNO-SAN.
MAN, I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN THAT.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WE MADE HER DO COSPLAY, RIGHT?
THIS WAS ALL ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN HER AND OHNO
WELL, TRUE...
GUESS THAT WAS OUR TOP PRIORITY.
I'M SURE SHE'LL LET YOU SEE HER COSPLAY ONE OF THESE DAYS.
I'M FULL OF SELF LOATHING RIGHT NOW.
HOW WAS IT?
WELL, OGIUE COMPLAINED THE WHOLE TIME, BUT IN THE END SHE DID IT.
FLASH
FLASH




I JUST HOPE THIS HELPS SMOOTH THINGS OVER.






'SUP.
?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY WOULDN'T I BE HERE?
I MEAN, NEXT YEAR I'LL BE—



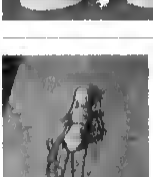
END OF CHAPTER 31

JANUARY 11TH



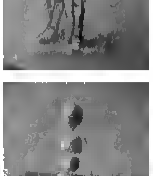
A COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT (OF COURSE, THESE ARE NOW ON SALE) THE PICTURE MAKES THEM LOOK A LITTLE BIGGER THAN THEY REALLY ARE.

JANUARY 10TH

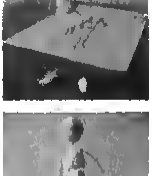


I MADE HER BASIC BODY STRUCTURE BY ATTACHING ALUMINUM WIRE TO HER CLAY PARTS. APPARENTLY, YOU CAN ALSO MAKE THE ARMS AND LEGS OUT OF CLAY TOO, AND USE THE WIRE ONLY FOR THE JOINTS, BUT I DECIDED TO KEEP IT SIMPLE.

AS LONG AS I FOLLOW THE DRAWING, I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH SIZE AND SCALE. ACTUALLY, I TRIED TO MAKE A FIGURE ONCE, AND I STARTED WITH THE HEAD FIRST. THE REST OF THE BODY ENDED UP LOOKING WAY TOO BIG FOR THE HEAD, SO I FINALLY JUST TOSSED IT IN THE CLOSET AND FORGOT ABOUT IT. SO THIS IS ACTUALLY MY SECOND TIME.

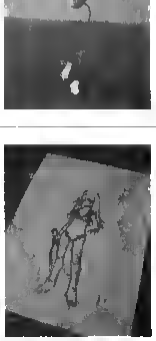


I TRIED TO SEE IF IT WOULD STAND UP... IT DID! I'M ALREADY SATISFIED.



I TRIED POSING THE FIGURE. DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE IT'S STUMBLING AROUND DRUNK? I ALREADY KNEW IT COULD STAND UP, SO... IT LOOKS A LITTLE BIT UNSTABLE, BUT AT LEAST IT'S STANDING.

JANUARY 6TH

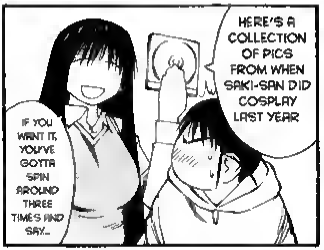


I DECIDED TO MAKE SHINOBU SENSEI. SINCE THIS WAS MY FIRST MODEL, I DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY CLOTHES. DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S NOT THAT I WANTED TO MAKE A NAKED FIGURE. THAT WOULD PISS MY GIRLFRIEND OFF.

I WASN'T HOPING TO SELL THIS FIGURE AT CONVENTIONS OR ANYTHING. IT WAS JUST FOR PRACTICE, SO DON'T BE TOO JUDGMENTAL, PLEASE.

THIS IS A COPY OF THE ROUGH SKETCH FROM THE KUJI-IN BOOK. I CHANGED THE SCALE A LITTLE BIT.

MISTER BIG

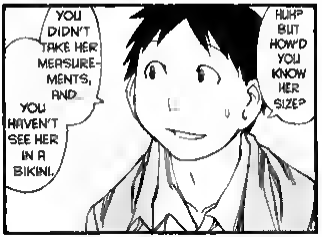




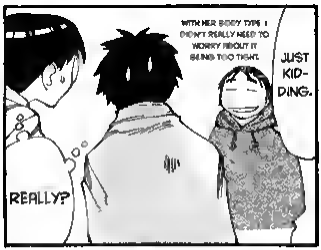


TANAKA'S LOVE





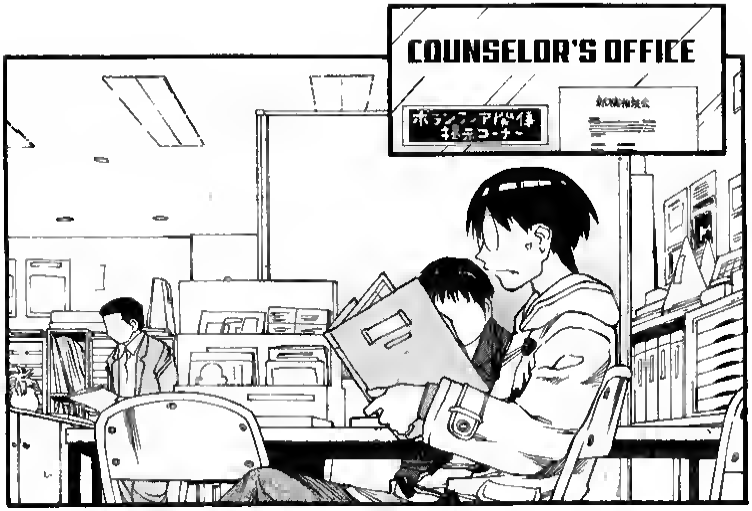






CHAPTER 32 -

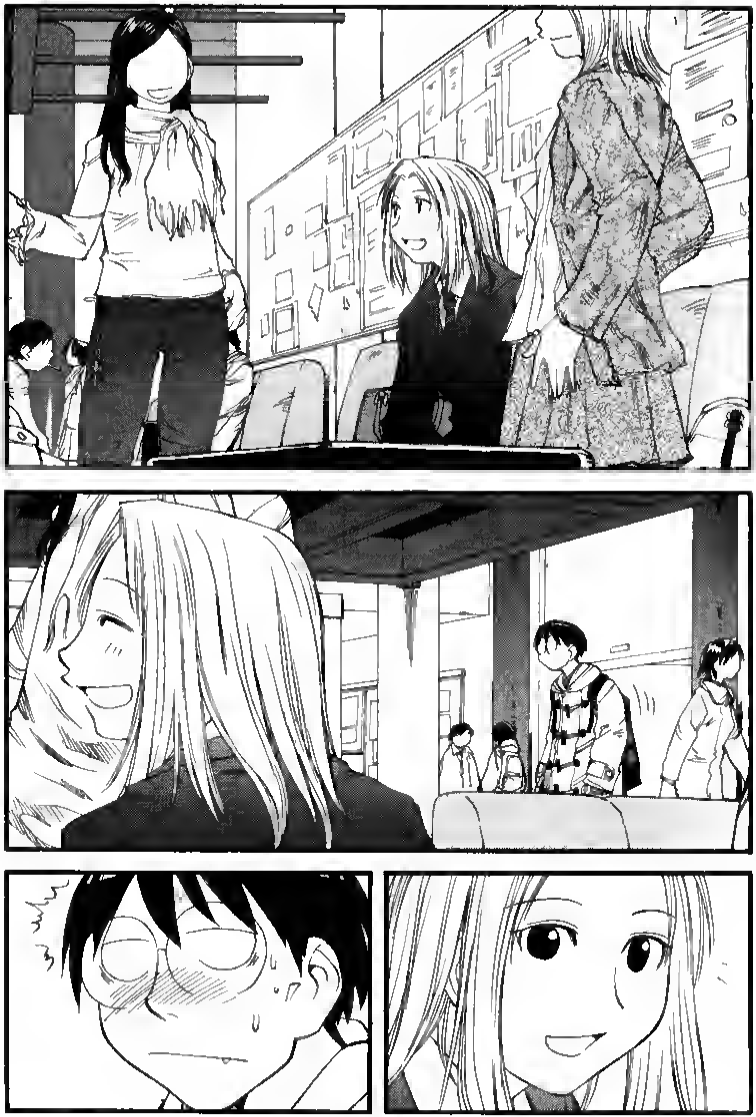
IN THEIR OWN WORLD

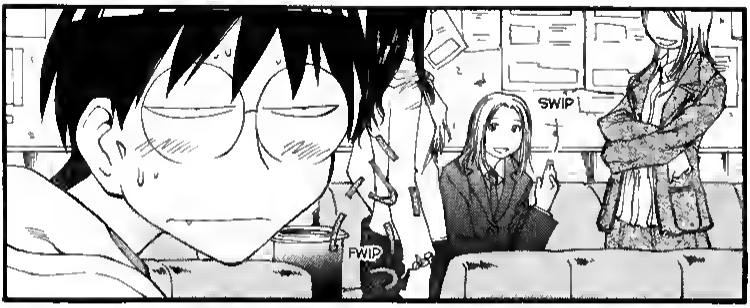

COUNSELOR'S OFFICE




CREAK



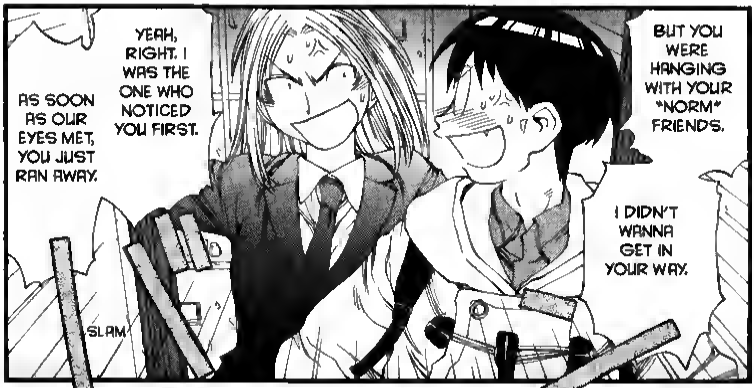



SWIP
FWIP


.....






AS SOON AS OUR EYES MET, YOU JUST RAN AWAY.
YEAH, RIGHT. I WAS THE ONE WHO NOTICED YOU FIRST.
BUT YOU WERE HANGING WITH YOUR "NORM" FRIENDS.
I DIDN'T WANNA GET IN YOUR WAY.
SLAM


NO I WOULDN'T HAVE!
OKAY, YEAH, I BLEW YOU OFF! BUT IF I HAD SAID SOMETHING, YOU WOULD'VE JUST LOOKED AT ME LIKE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME!
YOU TOTALLY BLEW ME OFF! I WAVED AT YOU, AND YOU JUST BLEW ME OFF.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

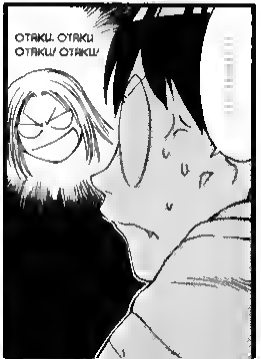

YOU'LL NEVER BE A REAL OTAKU. YOU'RE NOT EVEN FROM THIS PLANET.
YEAH, YOU'RE IN THE GENSHI-KEN, SO WHAT? BIG DEAL.
HAH
BRRRR
CHOP
CHOP

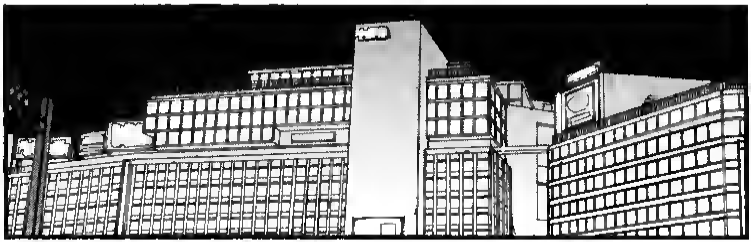

AND THEY ALL KNOW I'M IN THE GENSHI-KEN.
EVERYBODY ALREADY KNOWS THAT MY BOY-FRIEND IS AN OTAKU.
CLINK
THUNK!
ドン!


WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
OTAKU. OTAKU. OTAKU/ OTAKU/
GREETINGS EARTHLING. I AM FROM THE PLANET OTAKU.
NOW YOU'VE REALLY GONE AND PISSED ME OFF, YOU LITTLE OTAKU/
SOME-DAY YOU AND KOU-SAKA WILL BREAK UP ANYWAY.



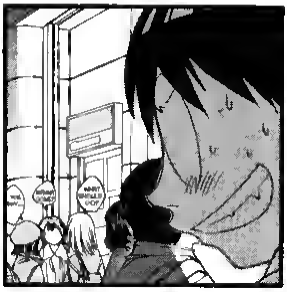

FWIP
FWIP


OTAKU. OTAKU
OTAKU/ OTAKU/




ザワザワザワザワザワザワ
CHATTER CHATTER


ザワザワザワザワザワザワ
CHATTER CHATTER


WOW
WHAT'S THAT?
WANT SOMEONE TO GO?


.....

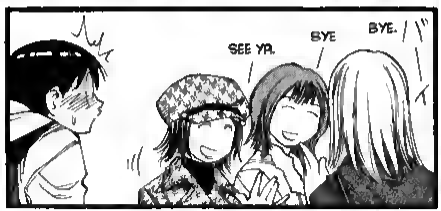


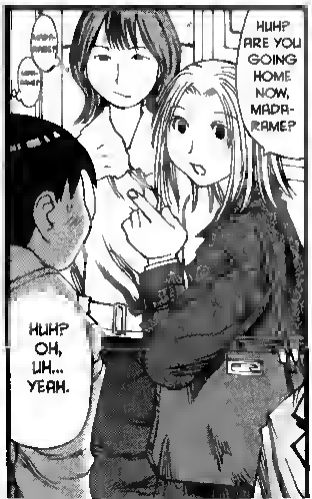

HEY, KASUKABE-SAN!


SEE? SEE?
SHE'S LOOKING AT ME LIKE SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME!
JUST LIKE I KNEW SHE WOULD!
AH, ONE OF HIS OTAKU FRIENDS?
TEE, HEE.
I CAN TELL
A FRIEND OF MY BOY-FRIEND
HUH? WHO'S HE?


JUST LIKE I SAID SHE WOULD.


?
I GUESS SO, HUH?
YEAH, IT IS.
THAT'S PER-FECT TIMING THEN.

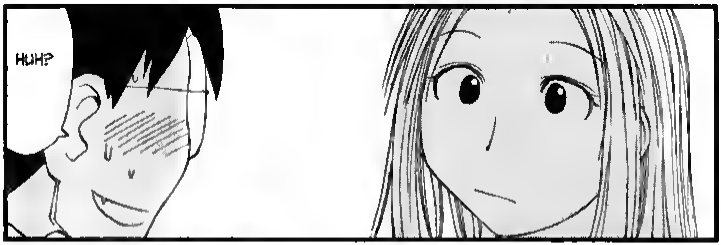

SEE YA.
BYE
BYE.

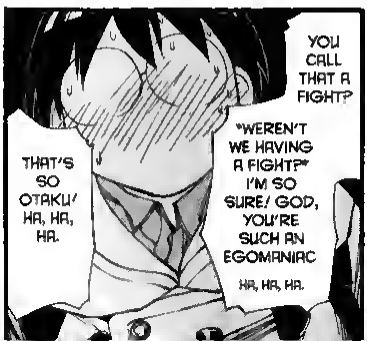

HUH? ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW, MADA-RAME?
HUH? OH, UH... YEAH.


HUH? NO, IT'S JUST THAT...
HUH? WHAT? DID YOU HAVE PLANS OR SOME-THING?


I'M GOING HOME TOO.
UH.. YOU ARE?
YEAH, THOSE GUYS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO HANG OUT WITH SOME OLD FRIEND'S OF OURS.
FROM HIGH SCHOOL

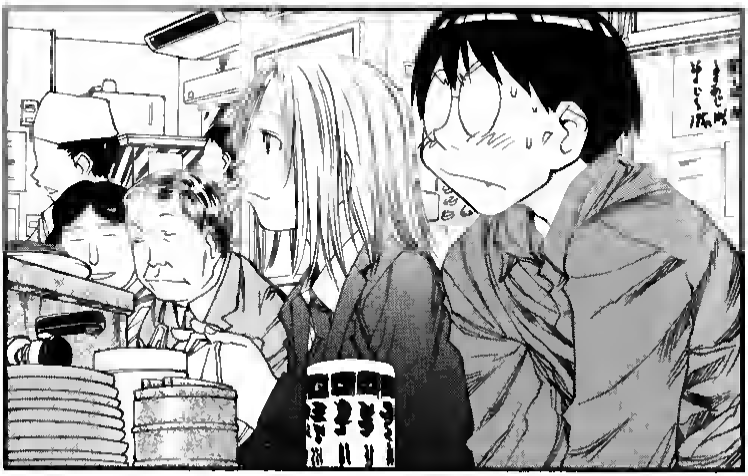

HAVING A FIGHT?
WEREN'T WE


HUH?


YOU CALL THAT A FIGHT?
"WEREN'T WE HAVING A FIGHT?" I'M SO SURE! GOD, YOU'RE SUCH AN EGOMANIAC
HA, HA, HA.
THAT'S SO OTAKU! HA, HA, HA.

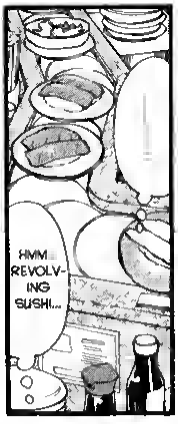

!?
HA, HA, HA!

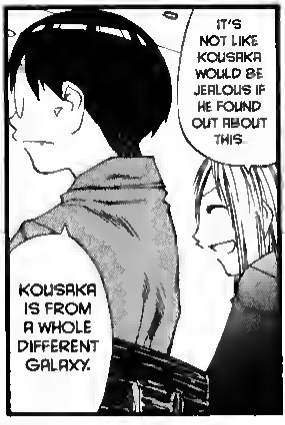

HA, HA, HA. UH-HUH.
OKAY THEN.
SHOULD WE GO GET SOME DINNER?
HUH? WHY?
SO WE CAN MAKE UP
BE-SIDES, I'M STARV-ING.
OR ARE YOU GONNA GIVE ME SOME LAME OTAKU LINE LIKE...
"I CAN'T EAT DINNER WITH MY FRIEND'S GIRL-FRIEND"?

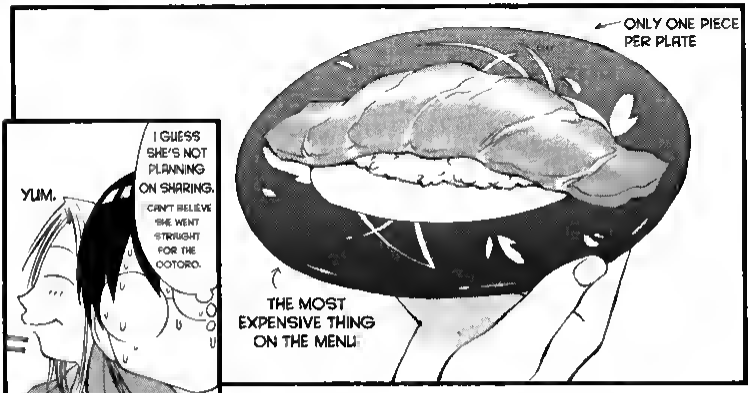



NOT THAT AGAIN.
YOU REALLY DO SEEM LIKE YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER PLANET, KIRSUKAIBE-SAN.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU.
WHAT? ARE YOU STILL MAD? JUST GET OVER IT AND EAT, FOR GOD'S SAKE.


CAN I HAVE AN OOTORO, PLEASE?
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THE BILL?
ARE WE GONNA SHARE EACH PLATE?
THUMP THUMP


HMM... REVOLVING SUSHI...


IT'S NOT LIKE KOUSAKA WOULD BE JEALOUS IF HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS.
KOUSAKA IS FROM A WHOLE DIFFERENT GALAXY.


ONLY ONE PIECE PER PLATE
THE MOST EXPENSIVE THING ON THE MENU.
YUM.
I GUESS SHE'S NOT PLANNING ON SHARING.
CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WENT STRAIGHT FOR THE OOTORO.

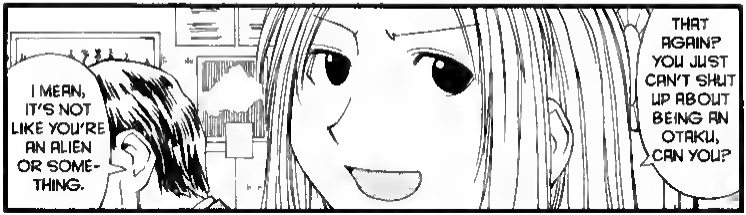

YEAH, THEY DO.
SQUID.
WHAT? YOU MEAN THEY HAVE THOSE IN SHINJUKU TOO?
HMM...
UH, I JUST WANTED TO CHECK OUT A DOUJINSHI SHOP.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OVER HERE?

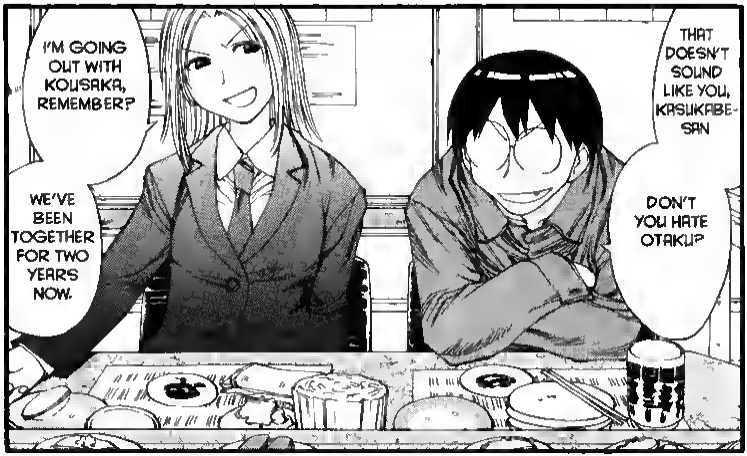

I HATE SEA URCHIN.
EASY FOR HER TO SAY...
YEAH, BUT EVEN IF I DON'T GET A REAL JOB, I'LL STILL MANAGE SOMEHOW.


ONE SEA URCHIN PLEASE.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TIME FOR THAT? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR A JOB?

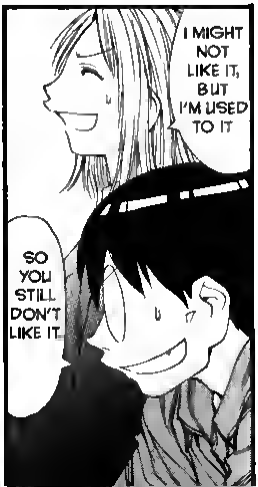

NO, I HAVE ENOUGH CREDITS TO GRADUATE.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ON THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN.
HA, HA, HA YOU'RE GIVING UP, AREN'T YOU?


OCTO-PUS.
EEL.
AND A 120 YEN* PLATE OF SHRIMP.
YELLOW-TAIL.
FLOUNDER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY MACK-EREL?
STEAMED ABALONE.
*$1.20
FORGET ABOUT MONEY FOR A SECOND.
THAT'S OKAY. I'M BROKE.
WANT ME TO ORDER SOME-THING FOR YOU?
WHOA. . . THAT SUCKS.
I CAN'T WASTE MY MONEY ON FOOD.
I JUST BLEW ALL MY DOUGH AT THAT DOUJINSHI SHOP
WELL, I AM FROM THE PLANET OTAKU, AFTER ALL.


I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE AN ALIEN OR SOMETHING.
THAT AGAIN? YOU JUST CAN'T SHUT UP ABOUT BEING AN OTAKU, CAN YOU?

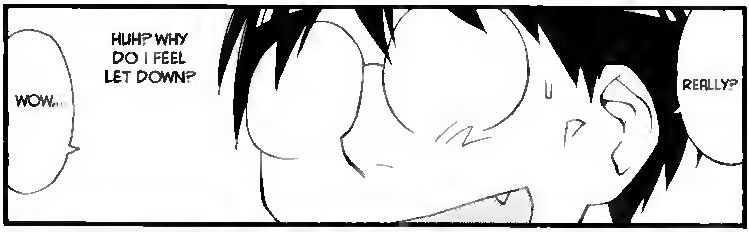

I'M GOING OUT WITH KOUSAKA, REMEMBER?
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR TWO YEARS NOW.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU, KASUKABE-SAN
DON'T YOU HATE OTAKU?


SHUT UP.
SOUNDS MORE LIKE YOU'RE BEING NEGLECTED.
WELL, I KEEP MY DISTANCE WHEN HE'S PLAYING GAMES OR WATCHING ANIME.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LATELY I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE BETTER ABOUT IT


SO YOU STILL DON'T LIKE IT.
I MIGHT NOT LIKE IT, BUT I'M USED TO IT

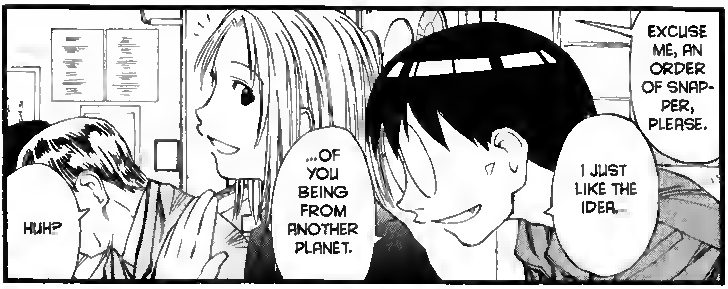

ACTUALLY, WE DID PLAY A VIDEO GAME TOGETHER THE OTHER DAY.
NO KIDDING?
WOW...


DON'T ASK ME. THE FIREWORKS WERE PRETTY, THOUGH. WE PLAYED FOR A WHOLE HOUR.
OH, THAT'S A PRETTY OLD ONE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, YOU KNOW, EVERY TIME YOU SCORE, ALL THESE FIRE-WORKS GO OFF.
FIRE-WORKS?
IT WAS THE KIND WITH FIRE-WORKS.


WOW...
HUH? WHY DO I FEEL LET DOWN?
REALLY?


WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
I WANTED YOU TO KEEP TREADING YOUR OWN THORNY PATH
I MEAN, I DON'T MIND YOU GOING OUT WITH KOU-SAKA OR ANY-THING, BUT... IT'S JUST THAT-.
WHAT? WHY?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I KIND OF HOPED YOU'D NEVER START PLAYING GAMES LIKE THAT, KASUKABE-SAN.


HMM...


EXCUSE ME, AN ORDER OF SNAPPER, PLEASE.
I JUST LIKE THE IDEA.
...OF YOU BEING FROM ANOTHER PLANET.
HUH?


...TO ACCEPT YOU.
NOTHING.

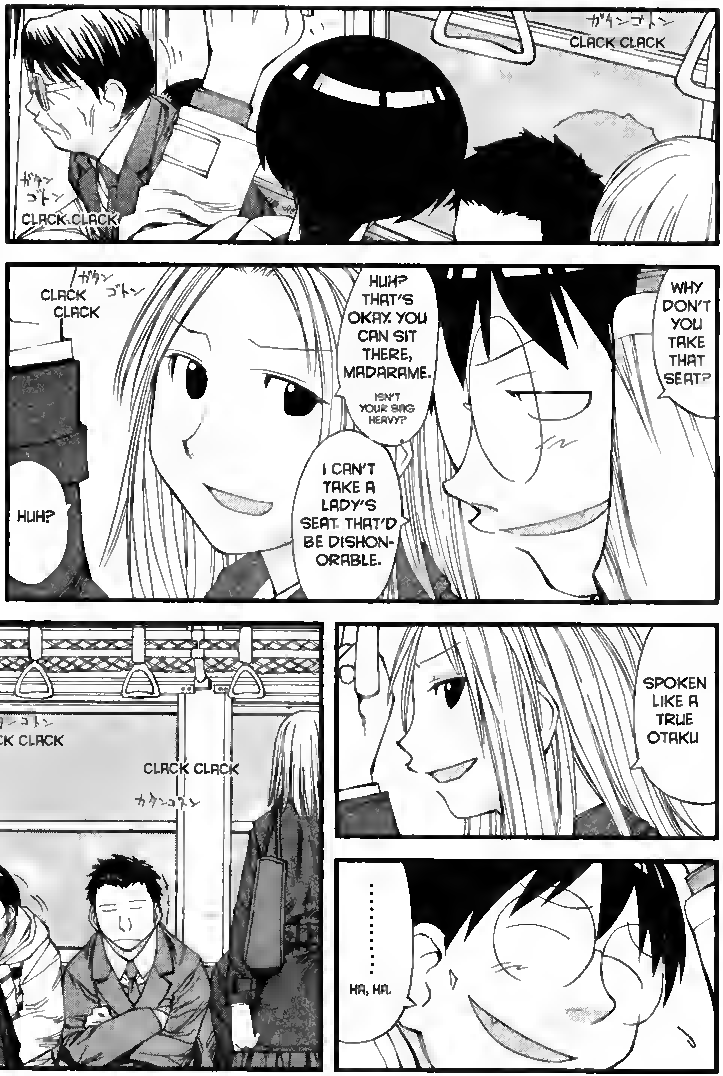

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
THAT MADE IT EASIER FOR ME?


I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO CHANGE
...AND TO FORGIVE YOU.
MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S REALLY TREADING HIS OWN THORNY PATH...
HA, HA...
THIS IS TOR-TURE.
?


YEAH, I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
?
WELL, MAYBE I WILL START THINKING ABOUT FINDING A REAL JOB.
HERE'S YOUR SNAPPER.






ガタン ゴトン
CLACK CLACK
ガタン ゴトン
CLACK CLACK
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THAT SEAT?
HUH? THAT'S OKAY. YOU CAN SIT THERE, MADARAME.
ISN'T YOUR BAG HEAVY?
I CAN'T TAKE A LADY'S SEAT. THAT'D BE DISHONORABLE.
HUH?
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE OTAKU
ガタン ゴトン
CLACK CLACK
CLACK CLACK
ガタン ゴトン
.....
HA, HA.



END OF CHAPTER 32

JANUARY 26TH



I DECIDED TO REDO HER FACE TOO. I'M ALSO GETTING READY TO START WORKING ON HER HANDS. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TODAY, SO THAT'S ALL I'M DOING. I HOPE I FINISH BEFORE GRADUATION

JANUARY 23RD



SO I HAD TO FIX A LOT OF THINGS. I BENT HER KNEES TO IMPROVE HER BALANCE. I DIDN'T LIKE THE ANGLE OF HER HIPS, SO I HAD TO FIX THAT TOO. NOW SHE'S A WHOLE 5 MILLIMETERS TALLER, EVEN THOUGH I USED THE PICTURE FOR REFERENCE. THAT'S WEIRD. I ALSO BENT HER SHOULDERS AND ELBOWS, SO I COULD IMPROVE HER POSE. IS SHE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE SHINOBU SENSEI? MAKING FIGURES IS REALLY HARD.

JANUARY 18TH



AS EXPECTED, SHE COULDN'T STAND UP ON HER OWN ANY MORE. THAT'S MY HAND IN THE PHOTO. HER POSE LOOKS KIND OF UNNATURAL

JANUARY 15TH



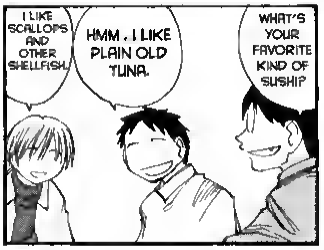
I SCULPTED HER BODY EVEN MORE. THIS IS WHEN IT STARTED TO GET FUN, BUT IT GOT HARDER AND HARDER TO MAKE HER STAND UP.

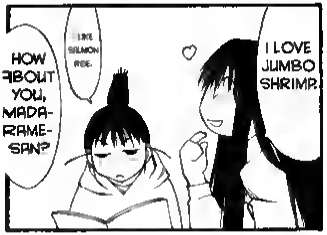
JANUARY 14TH

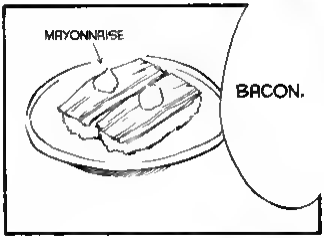


I TOTALLY GOT INTO SCULPTING HER BODY. I'M NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT SHOWING THIS AT CONVENTIONS.

MADARAME'S SAVINGS PLAN



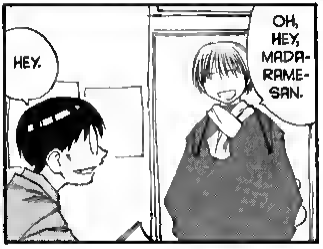






*50 CENTS

SHE DOESN'T CARE AT ALL



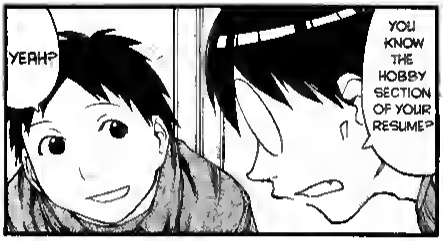


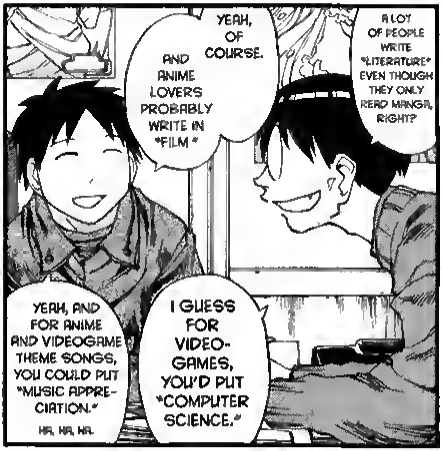




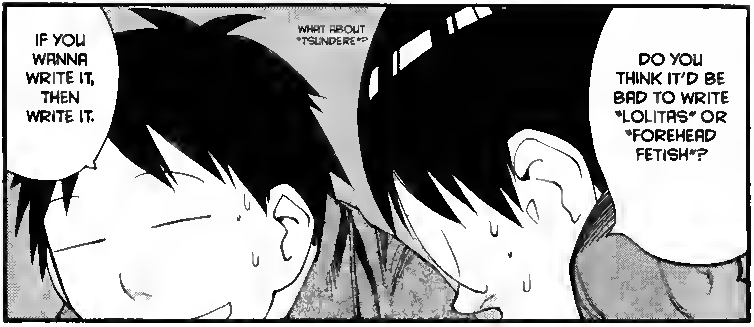

CHAPTER 33 -
TRANSFORMATION!


SHWICK
SHWICK
SHWICK
SHWICK
FWISH
FWISH
FLIP
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE


YEAH?
YOU KNOW THE HOBBY SECTION OF YOUR RESUME?


A LOT OF PEOPLE WRITE "LITERATURE" EVEN THOUGH THEY ONLY READ MANGA, RIGHT?
YEAH, OF COURSE.
AND ANIME LOVERS PROBABLY WRITE IN "FILM."
I GUESS FOR VIDEO-GAMES, YOU'D PUT "COMPUTER SCIENCE."
YEAH, AND FOR ANIME AND VIDEOGAME THEME SONGS, YOU COULD PUT "MUSIC APPRE-CIATION."
HA, HA, HA.


SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE


IF YOU WANNA WRITE IT, THEN WRITE IT.
WHAT ABOUT "TSUNDERE"?
DO YOU THINK IT'D BE BAD TO WRITE "LOLITAS" OR "FOREHEAD FETISH"?


YEAH, RIGHT. BUT YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY TO GO TO THE COMIC-FEST, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE IT'S NOT MY FIRST TIME, YOU IDIOT/ I'VE BEEN BUSY FILLING THESE OUT EVERY DAY. I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER WRITTEN A RESUME?
TOUCHÉ.


THE LAST DAY WE'LL ALL GO SHOPPING TOGETHER
WELL, I THINK WE SHOULD JUST DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO.


AND EVERYONE IS FREE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ON THE FIRST DAY.


WHAT'S OUR PLAN?
THE NEXT COMIC-FEST IS ONLY GONNA BE TWO DAYS LONG.
NOT THREE.

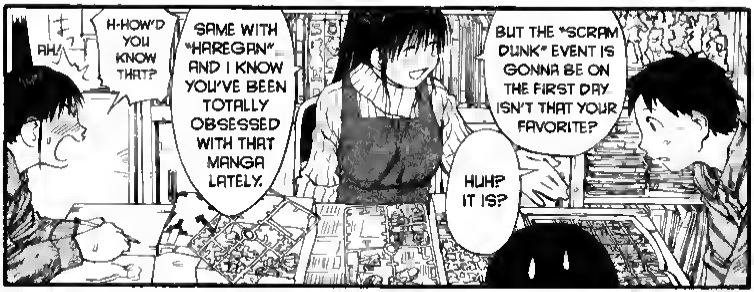

I'LL GO SHOPPING ON THE FIRST DAY, SO IF YOU WANT ANYTHING LET ME KNOW.
HEH, HEH, HEH,. THANKS. I'LL HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE COMING.
FRIENDS AND STUFF
OF COURSE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO DO COSPLAY ON THE SECOND DAY, OHNO-SAN.


IS KUGA-YAMA COMING?
I DON'T KNOW. HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT.


WHOA
ARE YOU GOING ON THE FIRST DAY?
HOW ABOUT YOU, OGIUE-SAN?
SHOCK


NO WAY
I WOULDN'T SET FOOT IN THAT ABYSS OF SEXUAL DESPERATION.
FLIP
N?
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
WAIT, BUT DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE SUMMER COMIC-FEST?
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME, SO I JUST WENT TO CHECK IT OUT.
I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT THE COMIC-FEST WAS LIKE.
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
TO EACH HER OWN.
I'LL STILL GO ON THE LAST DAY.
YOU NEED AS MANY PEOPLE THERE AS POS-SIBLE, RIGHT?
THUMP
THUMP


YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH OHNO-SAN AND EVERY-BODY.
YEAH, BUT WHY DON'T YOU TRY GOING ON THE FIRST DAY TOO, OGIUE-SAN?
.....
I THINK YOU'LL HAVE FUN.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF GOING THAN JUST STAYING HOME.
OH, IS THAT SO? ♡
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M GOING.
JUST LEAVE HER ALONE. SHE'LL BE THERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO TALK HER INTO IT, SASAHARA-SAN.
OH, REALLY?


AH?
H-HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
SAME WITH "HAREGAN"... AND I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH THAT MANGA LATELY.
BUT THE "SCRAM DUNK" EVENT IS GONNA BE ON THE FIRST DAY. ISN'T THAT YOUR FAVORITE?
HUH? IT IS?


NO WAY!
BUT I GUESS YOU WON'T BE GOING ON THE FIRST DAY ANYWAY, RIGHT?
W-WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT'S WHY I LIKE IT?
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL THOUGH. HE'S PRETTY SEXY.
THE GENERAL
WHA—? NO I DON'T.
IT'S TOTALLY OBVIOUS. EVERY TIME YOU SEE ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH "HAREGAN," YOU GET THIS WILD LOOK IN YOUR EYE.
MAYBE A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.
I DON'T THINK SHE EVEN KNOWS ANY MORE...
WAIT, SO... IS OHNO-SAN TRYING TO GET OGIUE-SAN TO COME TO THE COMIC-FEST? OR IS SHE TRY-ING TO GET HER NOT TO GO?


...I'M GOING!
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL...


THE FIRST DAY.


OH WELL, I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHO I AM ANYWAY
EVEN IF I RUN INTO SOMEONE FROM THE GENSHIKEN, THEY PROBABLY WON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME




WHY DO I EVEN CARE?
WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE ANYWAY?
THAT STUPID OHNO


WITH MY OLD HAIRSTYLE, AND MY OLD GLASSES...
..AND MY OLD CLOTHES ON.
I LOOK LIKE SOME OTAKU WHO JUST STEPPED OFF THE TRAIN FROM HICKSVILLE


ALL THESE OTAKU REALLY PISS ME OFF
IT'S NOT EVEN ELEVEN YET WHY ARE ALL THESE GUYS LEAVING ALREADY?


HOW PATHETIC
LOOK AT THESE GUYS READING MANGA ON THE SIDE-WALK.
WHAT A LOSER.
WHAT'S WITH THAT BAG? DON'T TELL ME HE'S GONNA GET ON THE TRAIN WITH THAT THING
IT'S SO FREAKING CROWDED.
AND SO FREAKING HOT!
BUT WHAT I REALLY DON'T GET IS THIS HEAT! WHY'S IT SO DAMN HOT? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE WINTER. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY GOD DAMNED SENSE! NOTHING MAKES ANY SENSE. GOD DAMN IT! WHAT THE HELL?
STUPID FREAKING GLOBAL WARMING.
WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO STAND HERE WITH ALL THESE STUPID OTAKU? THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF FREAKS. I DON'T EVEN GET THESE GUYS.

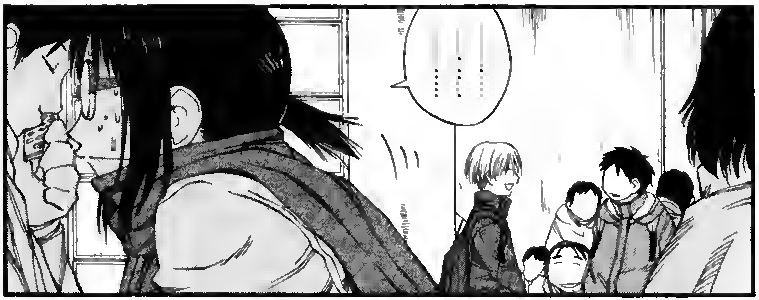

GRR
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR

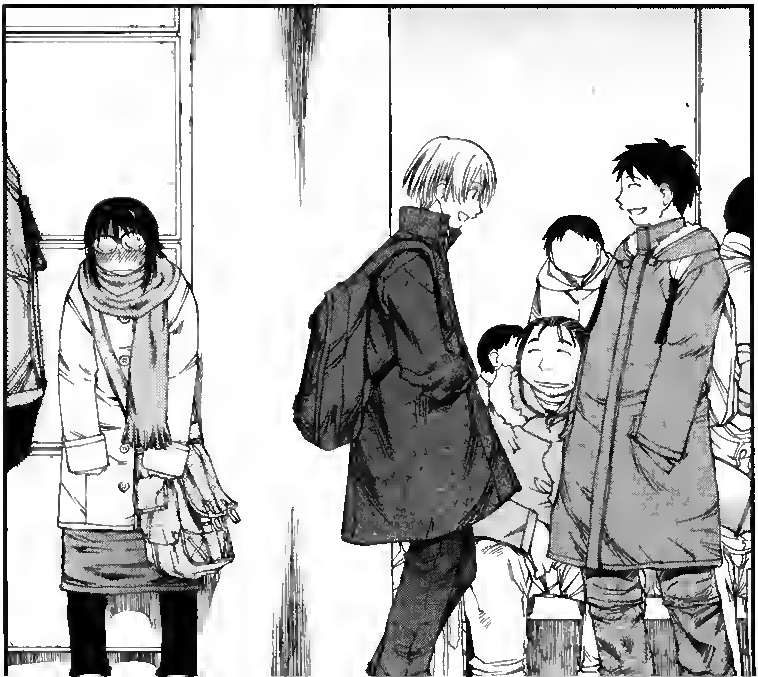

I'LL HAVE ONE OF THESE AND ONE OF THOSE, PLEASE.
ONE COPY OF THE LATEST ISSUE, PLEASE.
ONE COPY OF EACH NEW RELEASE, PLEASE!


BYOONG


PANT
PANT
PANT

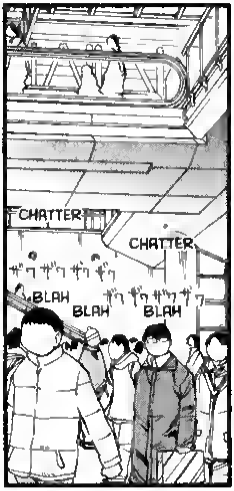

I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE WEST WING.
I FEEL KIND OF BAD ACCEPTING IT, YOU KNOW.
BUT TURNING IT DOWN IS EVEN WORSE.
YOU SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER FOLLOWER.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

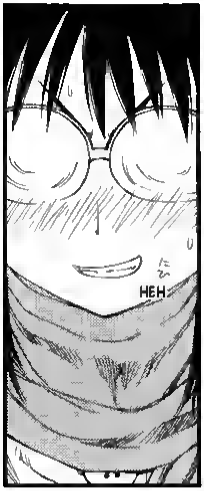



I SHOULDN'T GET SO CLOSE TO THEM
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?


THEY REALLY DON'T RECOGNIZE ME.
BUT..


CHATTER
CHATTER
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH


HEH


MAYBE I'LL JUST GET A LITTLE BIT CLOSER.
THEY'RE PROBABLY WAITING FOR OHNO-SENPAI. I'LL JUST WAIT HERE TILL SHE COMES.


SCRATCH
SCRATCH
YANK


HUH?
SUPER NEAR-SIGHTED.
ボヤ
BLURRY
I CAN'T SEE A THING.
SHIVER
SWIP

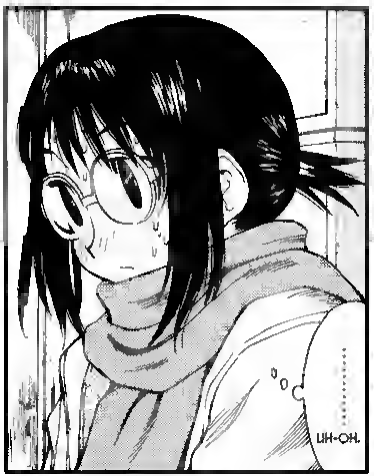

……


！
あはははは
HA HA HA






AH


UH-OH.


HUH?


FWOOSH
HUH?




A-ARE YOU OKAY?
THUD
ドサッ


HUH?
OH..
UH.. I'M FINE.
SOMETHING HIT ME.. SOMETHING SOFT AND SPRINGY..


AH!
BOYOING
ぼよっ


HUH?
Y-YOU'RE ..
HUH?
WHA--?
!?
THAT VOICE ..
MY GLASSES
OH NO, IT'S OHNO...
WHERE ARE MY GLASSES?
HERE, YOUR GLASSES.
TH-THANKS...


NO.
SO YOU DECIDED TO COME AFTER ALL, OGIUE-SAN.





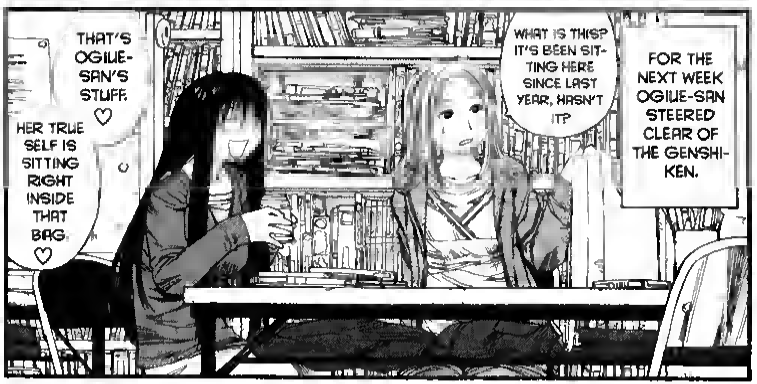

WHOA! YOU GOT THIS CLUB'S BOOK, EH? .. YOU HAVE EXCELLENT TASTE. HEH, HEH.
Wah!


I'LL HELP YOU PICK THESE UP
ひぃっ
AHHH!


WHOA. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO THIS KIND OF STUFF..
HEE, HEE
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST COME WITH US.







END OF CHAPTER 33

FEBRUARY 7TH



I TRIED DRAWING THE FACE ON WITH PENCIL. I KEEP SAYING I "TRIED" TO DO THIS OR "TRIED" TO DO THAT. I MUST REALLY BE LACKING IN SELF-CONFIDENCE.

PRETTY SOON, I'LL BE GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE, AND I'LL HAVE TO MOVE. I HOPE I GET IT FINISHED BEFORE THEN.

I GUESS I'LL START BY ASKING THE MOVERS FOR AN ESTIMATE AS IF I REALLY HAVE TIME TO SHOP AROUND.

FEBRUARY 6TH



I TRIED ATTACHING FINGERS AND EARS. DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD.

FEBRUARY 2ND



I TRIED SANDPAPERING IT A LITTLE. I GUESS THIS IS PRETTY MUCH HOW THE BASE SHOULD LOOK.

NEXT TIME, I'LL WORK ON THE DETAILS.

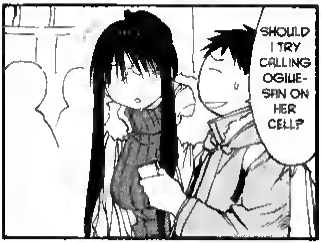


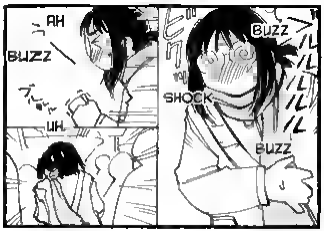
JANUARY 30TH



I TRIED TO SCULPT THE FACE. IT'S PRETTY TOUGH.

HER CELL PHONE'S ALWAYS ON VIBRATE

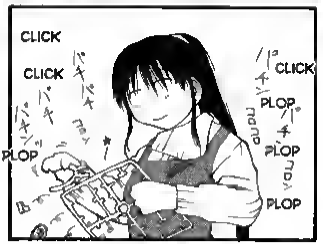








I MAKE CHARACTER'S OTHER THAN GUFU











CHAPTER 34 -

A ONE-WAY TICKET ON THE FANTASY EXPRESS


WAHH...
IT AIN'T EASY TO FIND A JOB THESE DAYS.
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
I'M DYING.
AND I ALWAYS FEEL SO STIFF AND UNCOMFORTABLE WHENEVER I PUT A SUIT ON. I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
HA, HA
I MEAN, I'VE GONE ON SO MANY INTERVIEWS. I'M JUST SICK OF IT. I DON'T EVEN WANNA GO OUTSIDE!

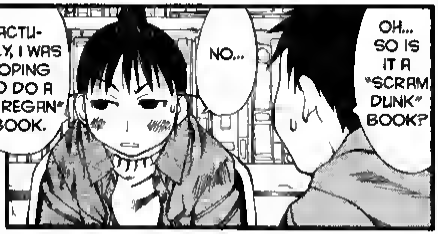

ARE SUITS EXPENSIVE?
WELL, THIS ONE WAS ON THE BARGAIN RACK.
IT'S NOT A PERFECT FIT, BUT IT WORKS.
AND TANAKA MADE THIS TIE
WHAT? NO WAY.
I'M SERIOUS. TAKE A LOOK. IT'S PRETTY AMAZING
JUST KIDDING. ♪
MIND IF I YANK ON THIS?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL ME? ♡
CLICK


HI.
HELLO.
OH, HI, OGIWE-SAN
YEAH?
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
UM, SASA-HARA-SENPAI.
UH..
UH...
HA, HA, HA.
JUST DON'T MAKE ME DO ANYTHING STUPID.
CLAC


THE 68TH COMIC FESTIVAL GROUP PARTICIPATION FORM
68
HMM...


YEAH, WELL, I WANNA SELL MY OWN BOOK, SO...
I BOUGHT AN APPLICATION FORM AT THE LAST COMIC-FEST.
HUH..
YOU'RE GONNA SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT COMIC-FEST?


UH... NO..
IT'S REALLY GIRLY, SO I DON'T THINK...
SO DO YOU WANT EVERYONE IN THE GENSHIKEN TO HELP WORK ON THE BOOK?


ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING TO DO A "HAREGAN" BOOK.
NO...
OH... SO IS IT A "SCRAM DUNK" BOOK?

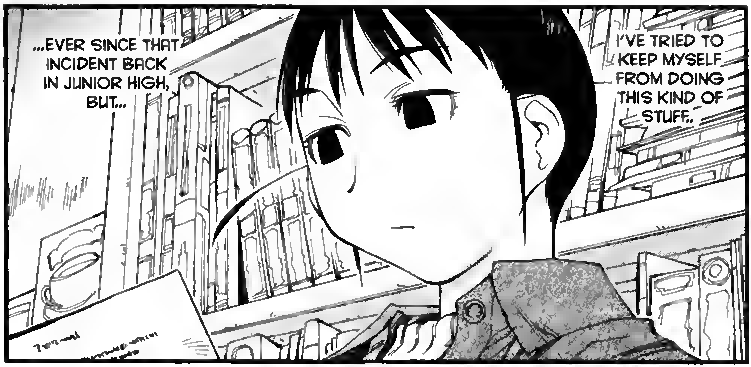

I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HELP ME.
BUT.. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE APPLICATION.
YEAH, SURE. I KNOW, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO FIGURE IT OUT.


YEAH, I GUESS SO.
I'M INTO A LOT OF OTHER STUFF TOO.
SO OGIUE-SAN WANTS TO MAKE HER OWN BOOK.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
HMM..
OH, RIGHT, OF COURSE.
YEAH, WELL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, SINCE YOU'RE REALLY INTO THAT ONE NOW.

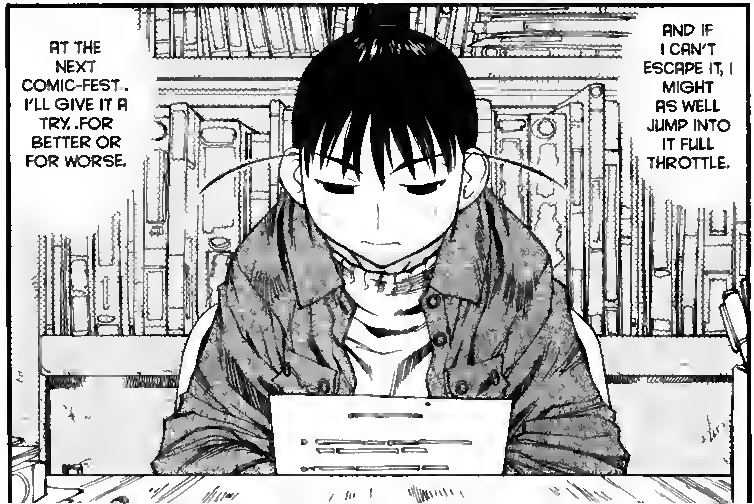

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE




CREAK
HMM...


...EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT...
I'VE TRIED TO KEEP MYSELF FROM DOING THIS KIND OF STUFF.


I CAN'T ESCAPE IT.
THE WINTER COMIC-FEST FINALLY MADE ME REALIZE THAT...


AT THE NEXT COMIC-FEST, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY...FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
AND IF I CAN'T ESCAPE IT, I MIGHT AS WELL JUMP INTO IT FULL THROTTLE.


NO MATTER WHAT HARD-SHIP
...MAY LIE AHEAD.
IT SEEMS LIKE THOSE TWO...
...ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
DIDN'T SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN BEFORE, TOO?
EVEN IF THERE WASN'T ANYTHING "FUNNY" GOING ON...
IT STILL SHOWS THAT THEY HAVE A VERY PLAYFUL RELATION-SHIP.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON BETWEEN THEM.
WHAT COULD'VE LED HIM TO PULL ON MADARAME-SENPAI'S TIE LIKE THAT?
LET'S SEE, HE SAID, "JUST DON'T MAKE ME DO ANYTHING STUPID"...


WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WAIT, I'M BEING STUPID! I'M JUST LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH THIS.
BUT THEN AGAIN
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WEARING A TIE? ARE YOU GONNA GRADUATE AND JUST LEAVE ME BEHIND?
N-NO... IT'S JUST...
MADARAME-SENPAI WOULD DEFINITELY BE THE "BOTTOM."
THERE'S NO DENYING THAT
YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN AWAY FROM ME? I MEAN, DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU CAN JUST FORGET ABOUT ME?
UNGH...

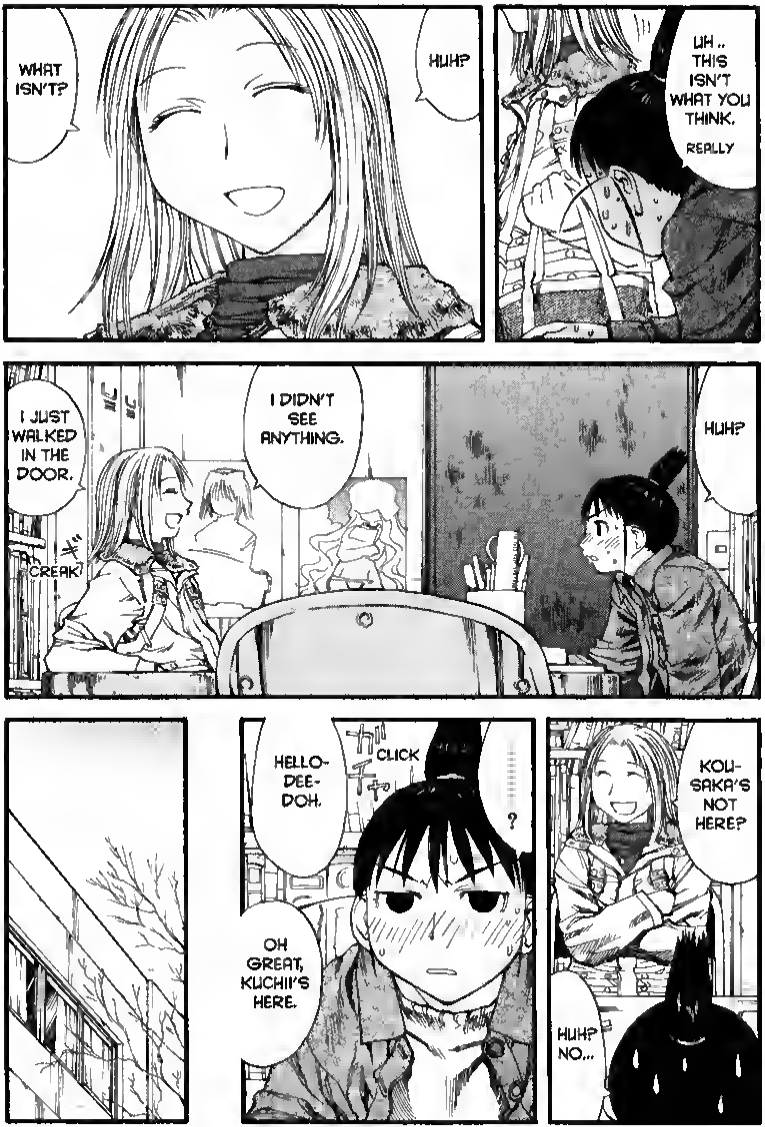

HMM—
I'M GETTING CARRIED AWAY!
UH-OH!
SHWICKA
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
RUB RUB
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

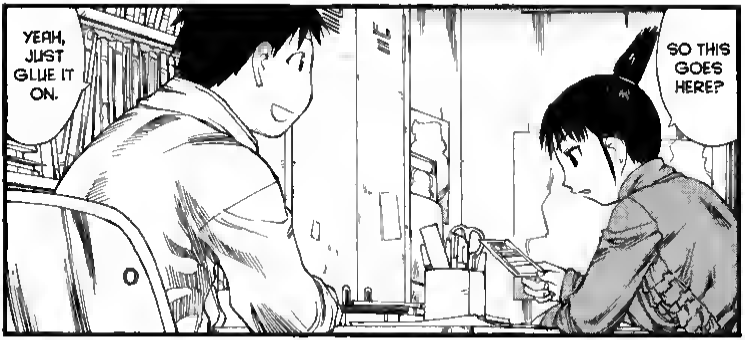

UWAH
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS
SAYA-HANA-SAN IS AN AGGRESSIVE "TOP"

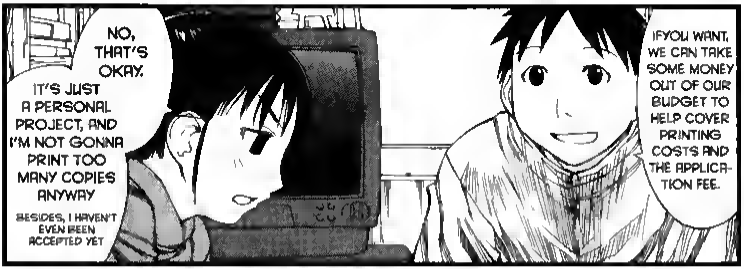


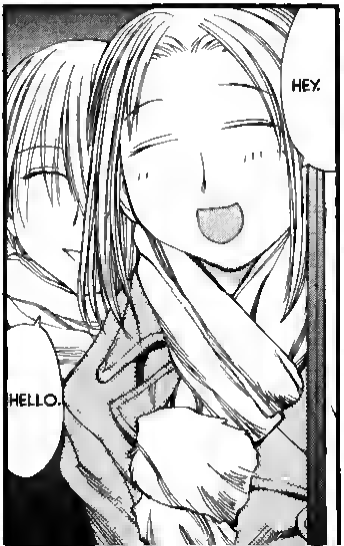

AND NOW MADARAME-SAN AS THE PASSIVE "BOTTOM"


FWUMP

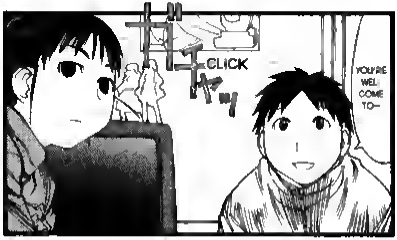

WHAT ISN'T?
HUH?
UH.. THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK.
REALLY
I JUST WALKED IN THE DOOR.
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
HUH?
CREAK
CLICK
HELLO-DEE-DOH.
?
OH GREAT, KUCHII'S HERE.
KOU-SAKA'S NOT HERE?
HUH? NO...


YEAH, JUST GLUE IT ON.
SO THIS GOES HERE?


NO, THAT'S OKAY.
IT'S JUST A PERSONAL PROJECT, AND I'M NOT GONNA PRINT TOO MANY COPIES ANYWAY
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ACCEPTED YET
IF YOU WANT, WE CAN TAKE SOME MONEY OUT OF OUR BUDGET TO HELP COVER PRINTING COSTS AND THE APPLICATION FEE.


HEY.
HELLO.

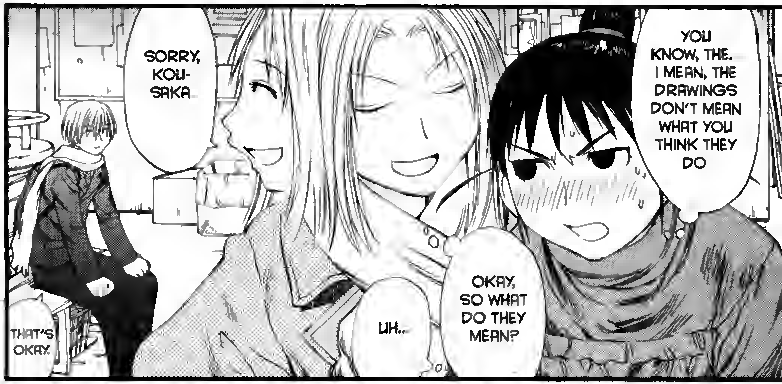

UM. WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.
BUT A LOT OF OHNO-SAN'S COSPLAY EXPENSES COME OUT OF OUR BUDGET, SO

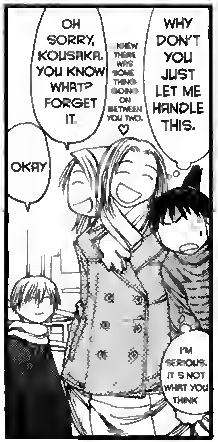

CLICK
YOU'RE WELCOME TO—


OOPS, SORRY, KOU-SAKA CAN YOU GO BACK WITH ME?
HUH? WHY?
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ♡
?
I KNEW IT. SHE DEFINITELY GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?
YEAH, SOME-THING REALLY IMPOR-TANT
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
SURE.
HUH? OKAY...
BYE...
HAVE FUN, YOU TWO. ♡


I TOLD YOU IT WASN'T WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE
HUH? WHAT WASN'T?


EXCUSE ME FOR A SEC


SORRY, KOU-SAKA
YOU KNOW, THE. I MEAN, THE DRAWINGS DON'T MEAN WHAT YOU THINK THEY DO
OKAY, SO WHAT DO THEY MEAN?
UH..
THAT'S OKAY.


WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS.
KNEW THERE WAS SOME THING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO. ♡
OH SORRY, KOUSAKA. YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT.
OKAY
I'M SERIOUS. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK


THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT..
THIS ISN'T LIKE THAT.


IT'S NOT UNCOM-MON FOR A GIRL TO..
..WANT TO DRAW PICTURES OF THE GUY SHE LIKES.

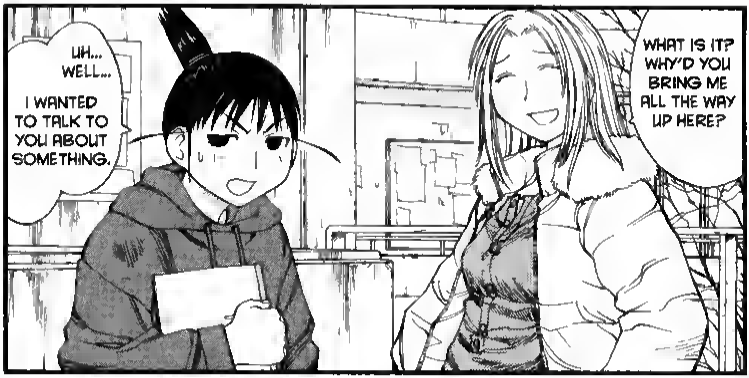

SO WILL YOU HELP SELL HER BOOKS, SASAHARA?
SURE, I WOULDN'T MIND.
IF OGIWE-SAN DOESN'T HAVE ANYBODY ELSE IN MIND.
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL DO IT BY MYSELF.
BUT YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO TAKE A BATHROOM BREAK IF YOU'RE ALONE.
AND I DON'T THINK OHNO WANTS TO HELP YOU.
I SUPPOSE HAVING YOU HELP IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, KASUKABE-SAN?
OBVIOUSLY!
OF COURSE, IF SASAHARA HELPS YOU SELL BOOKS...
YOUR FEMALE CUSTOMERS MIGHT GET JEALOUS.
HA, HA, HA.
HUH? I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DANGER OF THAT

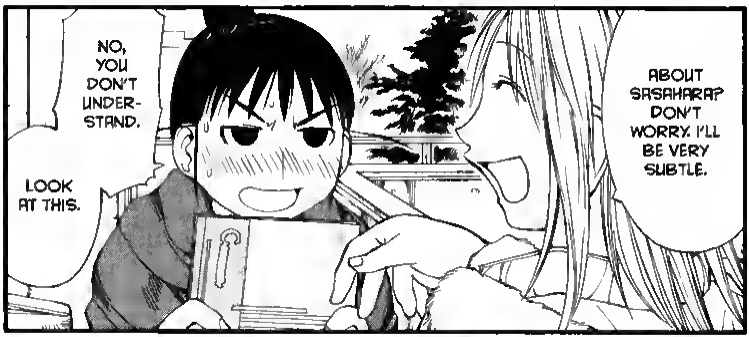

BUT THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY GIRL OTAKUS WITH BOY-FRIENDS, CAN THERE?
WHAT ABOUT OHNO-SAN?
THAT'S DIFFERENT!


THOSE TWO ARE TOTALLY MADE FOR EACH OTHER THEY'RE AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
BESIDES, I BET THERE AREN'T MANY GUYS IN THE FEMALE FAN DOUJINSHI SECTION ANYWAY
YEAH, I GUESS GUYS DON'T REALLY GO OVER THERE


BUT SOME-BODY HAS TO HELP YOU.
I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ACCEPTED YET.
RIGHT, OGILVIE?


KASUKABE-SENPAI IS HELL BENT ON SETTING U'S UP
OH NO...
BUT, SHE'D NEVER BUY IT.
"I WAS THINKING OF DOING A GAY FANTASY ABOUT SASAHARA-SAN AND MADARAME-SAN."
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST TELL HER THE TRUTH
OKAY...
WAIT, I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
AH.
HEH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHE COULD TELL IT WAS A DRAWING OF SASAHARA-SAN FROM THAT ONE LITTLE GLIMPSE
LATELY, KASUKABE-SENPAI IS GETTING TO BE MORE AND MORE LIKE A REAL OTAKU

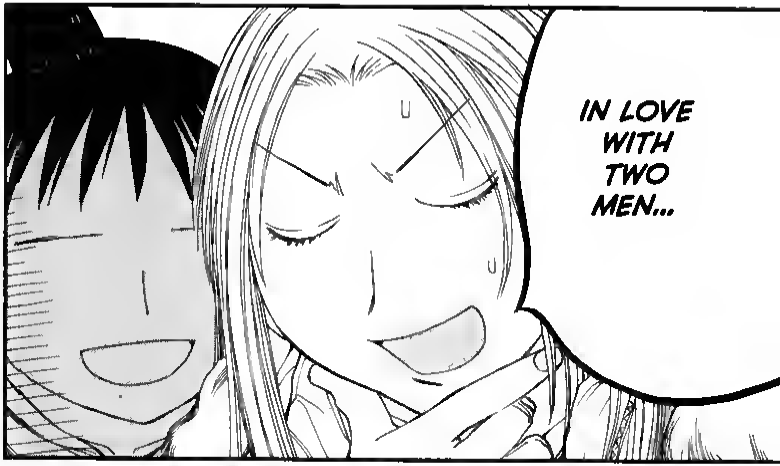

UH... WELL...
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
WHAT IS IT? WHY'D YOU BRING ME ALL THE WAY UP HERE?

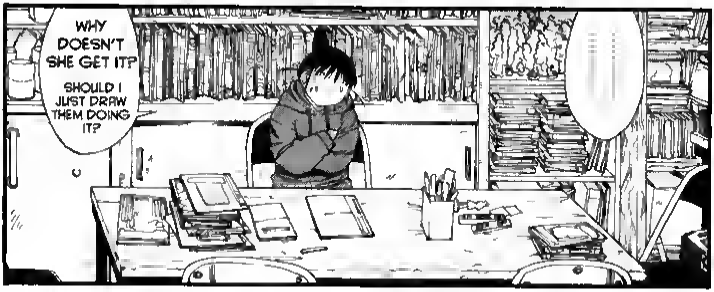

NO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
LOOK AT THIS.
ABOUT SASAHARA? DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE VERY SUBTLE.


HUH?


WHAT?
HERE.


.....
OH. SO THAT'S IT.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
SURE, I GET IT. I'M SORRY.
THAT'S OKAY.
YOU POOR THING...
POOR THING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?







END OF CHAPTER 34

FEBRUARY 19TH





I CARVED HER UP A BIT TO BRING OUT HER FIGURE. IT'S REALLY NOT EASY WORKING OFF OF A DRAWING. COSPLAY IS SORT OF LIKE THAT TOO, BUT THIS POSES ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT PROBLEMS.

I TRIED DRAWING HER UNDERWEAR IN PENCIL. WHAT DID I USE FOR REFERENCE, YOU ASK? MUMBLE MUMBLE...

ANYWAY, I'D BETTER GET TO WORK OR I WON'T FINISH ON TIME.

FEBRUARY 17TH



I TOOK THE FIRST STEP IN PUTTING ON HER BANGS. SHE'S HOLDING A LITTLE BOTTLE THAT WAS MADE FOR A DOLLHOUSE. IT PROBABLY SHOULD'VE BEEN A SAKE BOTTLE...BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ONE, AND I DON'T THINK I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE MY OWN. BESIDES, IF THE BOTTLE WERE TOO BIG, IT WOULD SORT OF STICK OUT. SO ANYWAY, JUST IMAGINE THAT IT'S A BEER BOTTLE.

FEBRUARY 15TH



I ENDED UP MAKING THE HANDS SEPARATELY, AND THEN ATTACHING THEM. I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THE BALANCE, BUT LUCKILY IT WORKED OUT OKAY.

NOW I'M GETTING READY TO PUT ON HER BANGS.

FEBRUARY 17TH



I SCULPTED THE FACE. THAT WENT OKAY, BUT I HAD A REALLY HARD TIME WITH THE HANDS. I JUST COULDN'T GET THEM RIGHT, AND THEY KEPT BREAKING IN THE PICTURE TO THE LEFT. I PUT A WIRE THROUGH THE ARMS...BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK TOO WELL EITHER. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SUDDENLY, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE PROFESSIONAL MODEL MAKERS IS VERY, VERY OBVIOUS.

IT'S PRETTY AMAZING THAT TOMOKAZU SEKI CAN MAKE FIGURINES EVEN THOUGH HE'S A VOICE-OVER ACTOR.

"CARRIED AWAY"








HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
PACK-AGE FOR A MR. SASA-HARA.
DING DON-
A FUTON?
.....

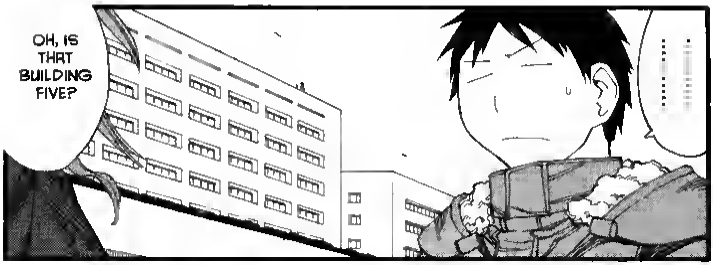

CHAPTER 35 -
THE FLYING FUTON...


THE DAY BEFORE THE SHIIOU UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS.
I MEAN, COME ON. A HOTEL WOULD BE WAY TOO EXPENSIVE


OH YEAH?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M SLEEPING ON YOUR FUTON EWW.
GREAT, SO I'M SUP-POSED TO SLEEP IN THE KOTATSU, RIGHT?


SHUT UP, YOU STUPID MONKEY.
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME ANYWAY

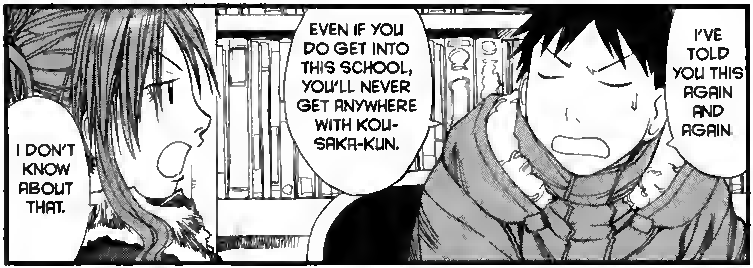

IS GONNA BE REALLY EXPENSIVE.
JUST PAYING TO TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAM...


OH, IS THAT BUILDING FIVE?

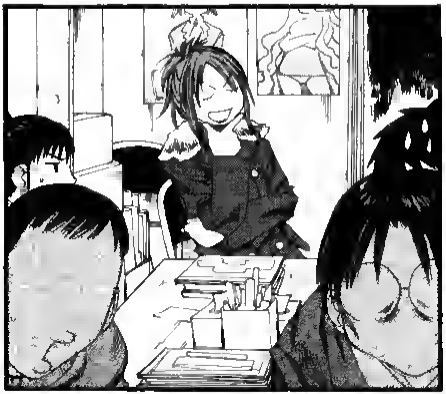

HEY.
HELLO.
CLICK CLICK


HEY, WHERE'S KOUSA-KA-SAN?
ドカッ
PLUNK
I GUESS HE HASN'T FOUND A JOB YET.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
カチャカチャ
HUH? YEAH...
WHOA, ARE YOU PLAYING "MY SWEET DENTIST"?
THAT'S A BLAST FROM THE PAST. ISN'T THAT GAME TOTALLY ADDICTIVE?

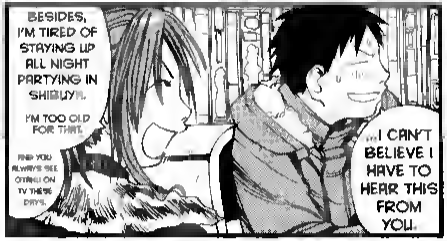

WELL, CALL HIM!
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S TOO COLD OUT FOR HIM.


I'VE TOLD YOU THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN.
EVEN IF YOU DO GET INTO THIS SCHOOL, YOU'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE WITH KOU-SAKA-KUN.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.


I BET I COULD *HIT THAT* AT LEAST ONCE.
HEH, HEH. ♡
GOD...
STOP EMBARRASSING ME.
BUT I DON'T REALLY CARE. EVEN IF I DON'T GET TO DO HIM, THAT'S COOL
HUH?
WELL, LATELY I'VE BEEN THINKING.
ABOUT...?




OTAKU CULTURE IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE!

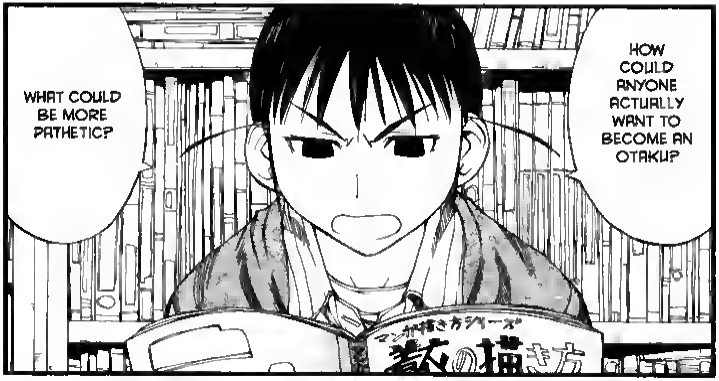

BESIDES, I'M TIRED OF STAYING UP ALL NIGHT PARTYING IN SHIBUYA.
I'M TOO OLD FOR THAT.
AND YOU ALWAYS SEE OTAKU ON TV THESE DAYS.
...I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO HEAR THIS FROM YOU.


BESIDES, THAT'S SUPER NINTENDO, DUH
IT'S "FOUR," YOU IDIOT. NOT "ONE V."
IT'S CALLED "DRAGON QUEST ONE V"!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING PLAYING VIDEO-GAMES, ANYWAY?

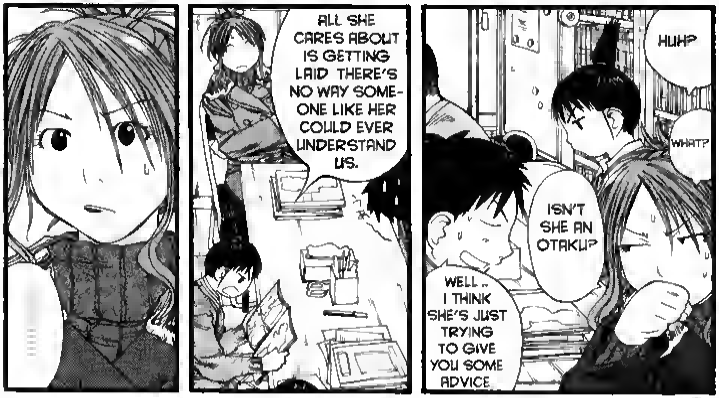

HUH? YOU MEAN THE PLAY-STATION GAMES?
UM.


PLUS, I'VE BEEN PLAYING SOME OF THOSE GAMES YOU LEFT AT HOME.
AND I'M REALLY GETTING INTO THEM.


I-IF SASAHARA'S SISTER REALLY DOES PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAM...
TH-THINGS COULD GET PRETTY CRAZY NEXT YEAR.
YEAH, WELL.
SHE'D CERTAINLY NEVER FIT IN WITH US
WHAT DO YOU THINK, OHNO-SAN?
FLIP
HUH? WELL...
YOU NEVER KNOW.
I THINK SHE MIGHT FIT IN JUST FINE.
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN GIVING HER DOUJIN-SHIS AND STUFF
THE ONLY THING I'D WORRY ABOUT IS..
OGIUE-SAN.
YEAH .I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.


HOW COULD ANYONE ACTUALLY WANT TO BECOME AN OTAKU?
WHAT COULD BE MORE PATHETIC?
マンガ描きカラバーズ
美女の描き方


CLICK CLICK CLICK

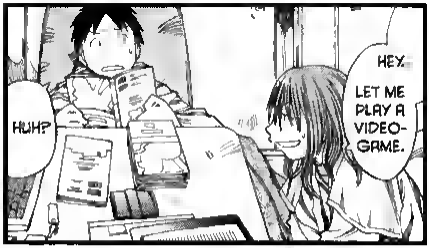

HUH?
WHAT?
ISN'T SHE AN OTAKU?
WELL.. I THINK SHE'S JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.
ALL SHE CARES ABOUT IS GETTING LAID THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE HER COULD EVER UNDERSTAND US.

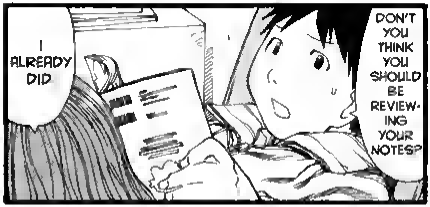

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU GUYS SAY SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT HER HAIR?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A FREAK!
I AGREE.
HEY!
I'M SORRY, OGIUE-SAN DON'T WORRY, SHE WON'T GET IN ANYWAY.
JUST IGNORE HER.
GEEZ. YOU'RE SO MEAN.
HM


I WAS HOPING I'D GET TO SEE KOU-SAKA-SAN BEFORE THE TEST.
OH WELL..
THE ENTRANCE EXAM IS PRETTY TOUGH, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT JUST A GAME.
I KNOW.
.....


SO, DO YOU SERI-OUSLY THINK...
.. YOU'LL PASS?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
I STUDIED PRETTY HARD.
HMM...




HEY, LET ME PLAY A VIDEO-GAME.
HUH?


DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE REVIEW-ING YOUR NOTES?
I ALREADY DID



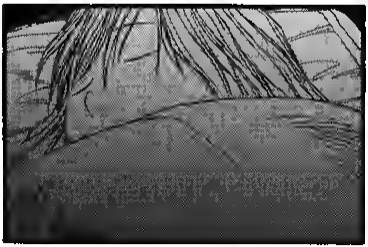

REALLY?
OH, I WANNA TRY THAT ONE.
WELL, I'VE GOT "DRAG-ON QUEST VIII" IN THERE RIGHT NOW

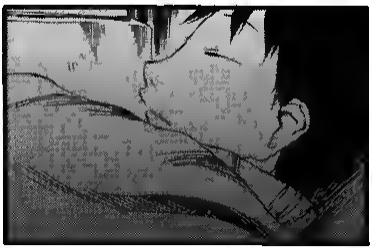

I DON'T KNOW

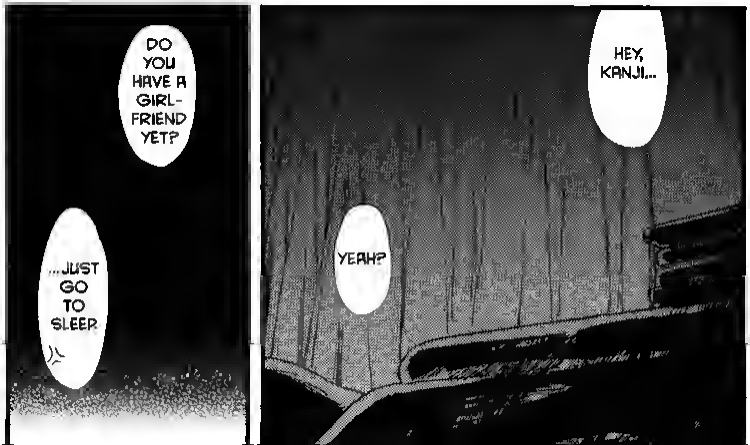

ARE YOU NERVOUS?


WHAT? WHY NOT?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
BECAUSE, IF YOU FAIL, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU USING THAT AS AN EXCUSE.
I'M GOING TO BED!
WAIT. MY HAIR ISN'T DRY YET.
YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT JUST TO PISS ME OFF YOU'RE SO STUCK UP.
GOD, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS, KANJI.
SHUT UP.
YEAH, RIGHT.
WHAT?








HEY, KANJI...
YEAH?
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND YET?
...JUST GO TO SLEEP



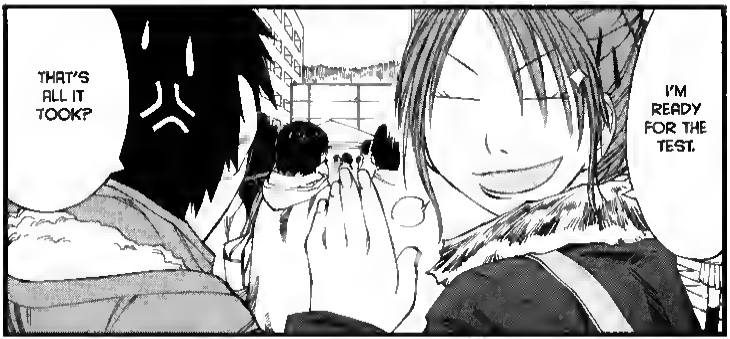

UH-OH OH NO. OH NO.
AHH.
I SHOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER, SHOULD I?
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY.
I'M TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE HERE.
I MEAN SERIOUSLY, I'VE ONLY BEEN STUDYING FOR LIKE SIX MONTHS.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL PASS.
SO WHAT?
YOU'RE PROBABLY USED TO FAILURE BY NOW ANYWAY
TCH.

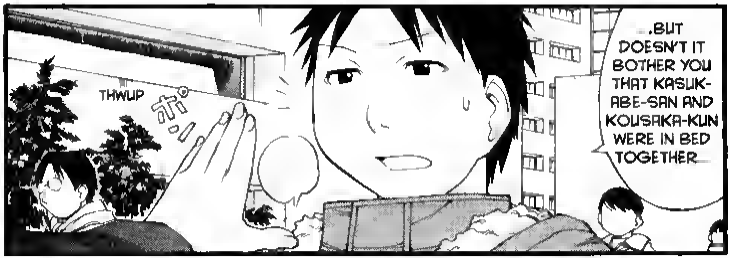

BEEP, BEEP
WHAT I MEAN IS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A TRY.
YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU PASS LATER ON.
!?
THIS IS KEIKO.
HELLO? KASUKABE-SAN?
OH, IT'S YOU.
OH, I'M SORRY. WERE YOU SLEEPING? I'M REALLY SORRY.
UH-HUH. WHAT DO YOU—
WELL, I'M AT SHIIOU UNIVERSITY RIGHT NOW TO TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAM, AND...
WHEN THE HELL DID SHE AND KASUKABE-SAN EXCHANGE NUMBERS?
I DON'T THINK SHE HAS KOUSAKA-KUN'S NUMBER YET, THOUGH
I'M STARTING TO GET PRETTY NERVOUS.
ACTUALLY, I'M ABOUT TO...
...PEE MY PANTS.


I KNOW I PROBABLY WON'T PASS, BUT I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR, YOU KNOW
I MEAN, MY OWN BROTHER KEEPS TELLING ME I'M GONNA FAIL.
AND I KNOW THAT MY PARENTS ARE REALLY PROUD THAT I'M DOING THIS. EVEN THOUGH THEY NEVER SAY ANYTHING
THEY ALWAYS JUST LET ME DO WHATEVER I WANT, BUT...
NOW THEY'RE LIKE, "SHE'S REALLY GROWN UP"!
I ACTUALLY STARTED THIS WHOLE THING AS A JOKE, YOU KNOW?
BUT NOW IT'S REALLY HAPPENING.
AND I'M LIKE, OH MY GOD, WHAT IF I FAIL?


THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER GRADU-ATE!
I COULDN'T HANDLE THAT. I HATE STUDYING!
BUT IF I PASS, I'LL ACTUALLY BE A COLLEGE STUDENT.
ZZZ.
ZZZ.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING ANYMORE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, KASUKABE-SAN?
SHE FELL ASLEEP!
SHE FELL ASLEEP?


RUSTLE RUSTLE
UH, HELLO?
SORRY, SAKI-CHAN FELL ASLEEP
KOUSAKA-SAN!
WAHH...
JOY
I HEARD WHAT YOU WERE SAYING YOU'RE TAKING THE ENTRANCE EXAM, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT TO START, ISN'T IT?
YEAH
YEAH, ALMOST
GOOD LUCK
THANKS!
SIGH
BEEP

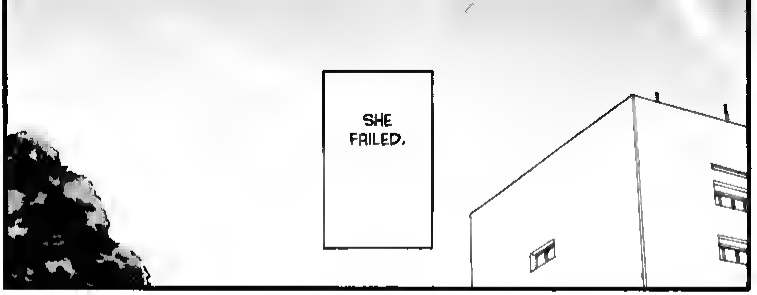

I'M READY FOR THE TEST.
THAT'S ALL IT TOOK?

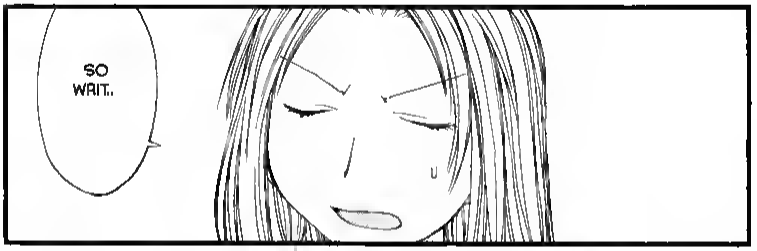

...BUT DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU THAT KASUKABE-SAN AND KOUSAKA-KUN WERE IN BED TOGETHER...
THWUP
ポン


WELL...
I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.

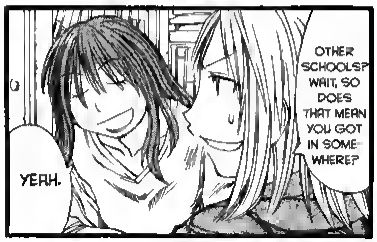



I FEEL A LOT BETTER NOW, SO...
I'M GONNA GO.
KEIKO SASAHARA WAS APPLICANT #50951.
SHE TOOK THE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR SHIIOU UNIVERSITY'S LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.


SHE FAILED.


SO WAIT..


WHY? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?


OTHER SCHOOLS? WAIT, SO DOES THAT MEAN YOU GOT IN SOMEWHERE?
YEAH.


A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER SCHOOLS...
...JOIN CLUBS HERE.


I'M GOING TO OOKA BUSINESS COLLEGE!
SHE IS TOTALLY GONNA DROP OUT.
I'M GONNA COME BY HERE ALL THE TIME, SO..
I'LL LEAVE MY EXTRA FUTON AT YOUR PLACE, KANJI.
NO WAY.
MEAN-WHILE, MADA-RAME-SAN...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
AH, YOU'RE DEAD.
STILL HASN'T FOUND A JOB.

MARCH 1ST



UGH, SHE'S STILL NOT QUITE PERFECT, BUT I'M OUT OF TIME I GUESS I'LL SPRAY SOME FINISHER ON NOW. I'LL UPLOAD PHOTOS ONTO THE WEB GALLERY LATER. I'LL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING ELSE AFTER I'VE MOVED. OH NO, I'D BETTER START PACKING OR I'LL BE IN TROUBLE. ANYWAY, TALK TO YOU LATER!

FEBRUARY 26TH



HER UNDERWEAR ARE FINALLY STARTING TO LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING. BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM LOOK REALLY DETAILED.

FOR EXAMPLE, HER CROTCH LINE IS SO TINY, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SCULPT IT? SHOULD I HAVE MADE EACH LEG SEPARATELY? HMMPH

FEBRUARY 23RD



YEP. NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF FINISHING THE DETAILS. I HOPE I GET IT DONE BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

FEBRUARY 22ND





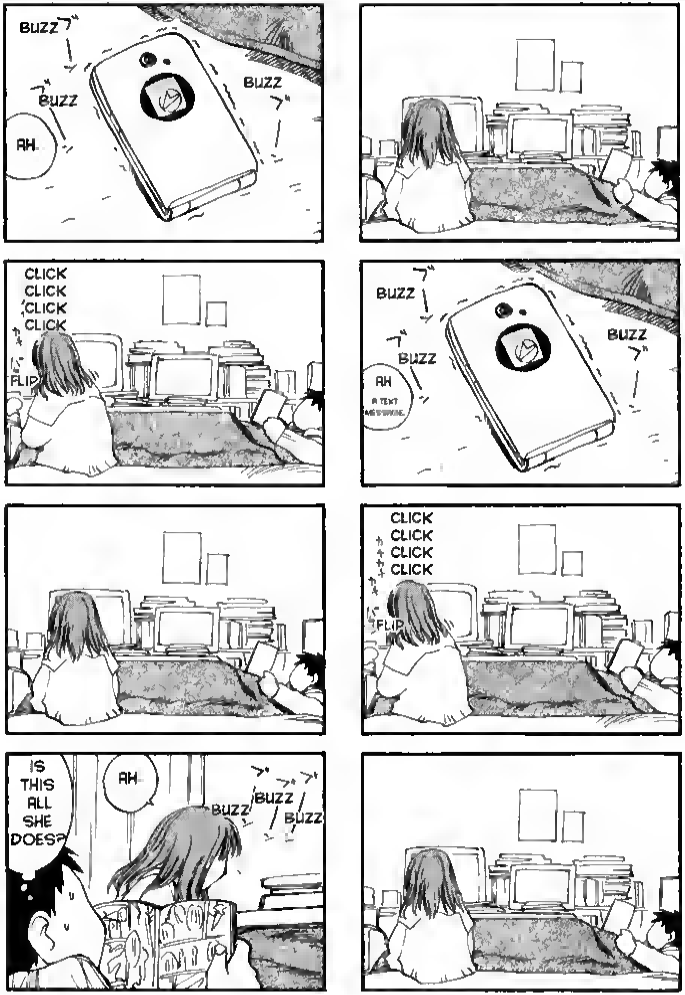
I SCULPTED HER HAIR A LITTLE MORE. I WORKED ON HER UNDERWEAR A LITTLE MORE TOO

FEBRUARY 20TH



I STARTED WORKING ON HER HAIR. IT'S A LITTLE LONGER THAN IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT IT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.

KIDS



REPEAT

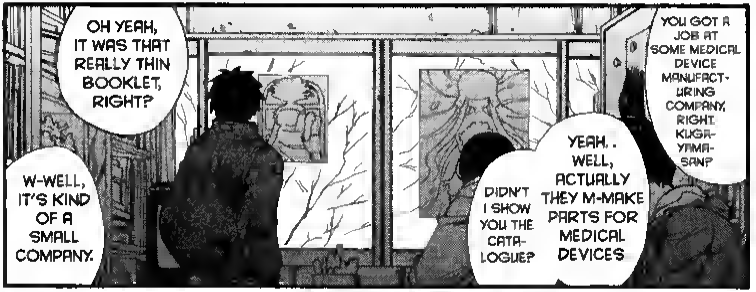
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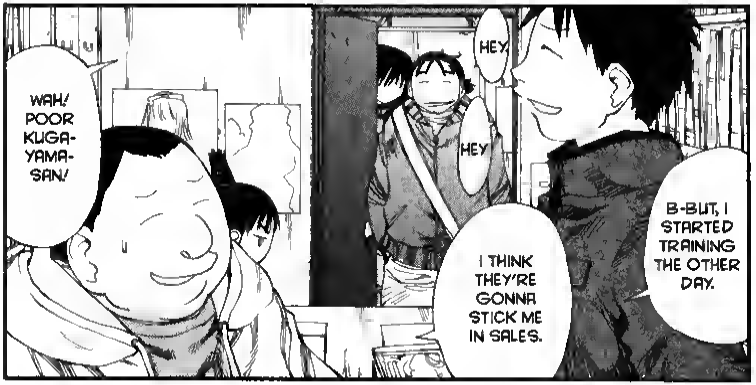



LONG TIME NO SEE, KUGA-YAMA-SAN.
HELLO.
H-HEY.
OH, HEY.


B-BUT, I WAS THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD JUST LEAVE IT HERE.
I J-JUST CAME BY TO GET MY STUFF.
YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW, THE GRADU-ATION CEREMONY IS NEXT WEEK, SO..

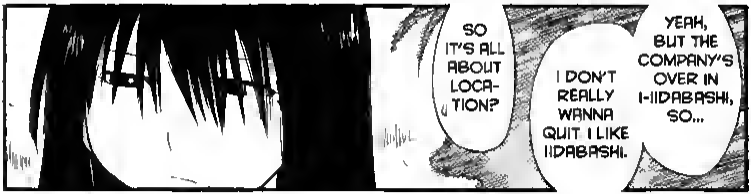

Y-YEAH, MAYBE.
I GUESS THAT'S HOW WE END UP WITH MORE AND MORE STUFF EVERY YEAR


OH YEAH, IT WAS THAT REALLY THIN BOOKLET, RIGHT?
W-WELL, IT'S KIND OF A SMALL COMPANY.
DIDN'T I SHOW YOU THE CATA-LOGUE?
YEAH.. WELL, ACTUALLY THEY M-MAKE PARTS FOR MEDICAL DEVICES
YOU GOT A JOB AT SOME MEDICAL DEVICE MANUFACT-URING COMPANY, RIGHT, KUGA-YAMA-SAN?


WAH! POOR KUGA-YAMA-SAN!
HEY.
HEY
I THINK THEY'RE GONNA STICK ME IN SALES.
B-BUT, I STARTED TRAINING THE OTHER DAY.


CHAPTER 36 -
GRADUATION SYNDROME


I DON'T KNOW THEY SAY LOTS OF NEW GRADS QUIT THEIR FIRST JOBS PRETTY QUICKLY
WH-WHY NOT?
WELL, JUST DON'T GO SWITCH-ING JOBS RIGHT AWAY.


SO IT'S ALL ABOUT LOCA-TION?
I DON'T REALLY WANNA QUIT I LIKE IIDABASHI.
YEAH, BUT THE COMPANY'S OVER IN I-IIDABASHI, SO...


YOU MEAN, MY SCHOOL? YEAH.
Y-YOU'LL BE IN UENO, RIGHT, TANAKA?


YEAH, BUT I'LL MOSTLY BE IN NIPPORI.
HA, HA.
YOU'LL BE RIGHT NEAR AKIBA

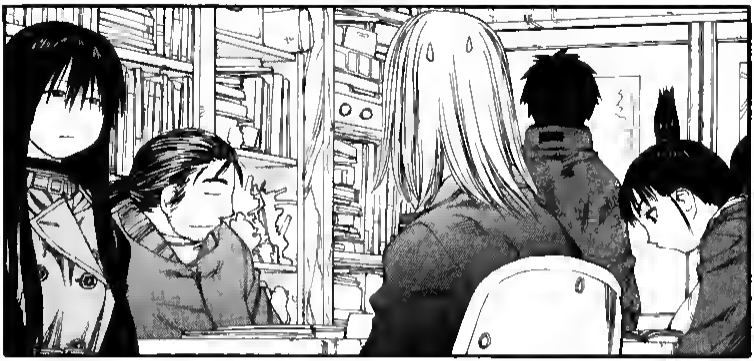

IT'S PRETTY FAR.
I MEAN, I GUESS I COULD JUST COMMUTE FROM THE APARTMENT I'M IN NOW, BUT...
WELL... YEAH.
S-SO... YOU MEAN... YOU'RE MOVING?
BUT IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL. HE WON'T BE TOO FAR AWAY.


I DON'T MIND.
HA, HA.
SO YOU SAY.

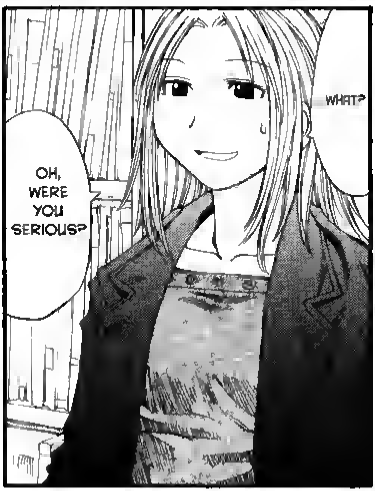

WELL, YOU SEE
REALLY, IT'S OKAY. I DON'T CARE.


HEY.
HUH? KOUSAKA'S NOT HERE?
AH, SAKI-SAN!
I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU, SAKI-SAN.
HUH? WHAT?

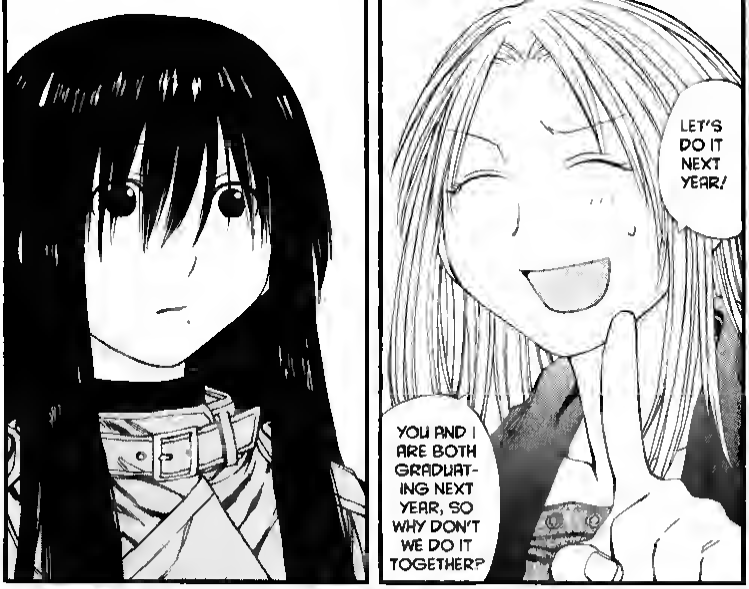

I WAS HOPING MAYBE YOU COULD TRY THEM ALL ON, AND WE COULD HAVE A LITTLE PHOTO SHOOT, YOU KNOW, TO CELEBRATE GRADUATION.
THERE'RE A BUNCH OF COSTUMES THAT HE MADE FOR YOU, SO...
TANAKA-SAN'S GRADUATING NEXT WEEK, AND..
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA BE GRADUATING.
HUH?

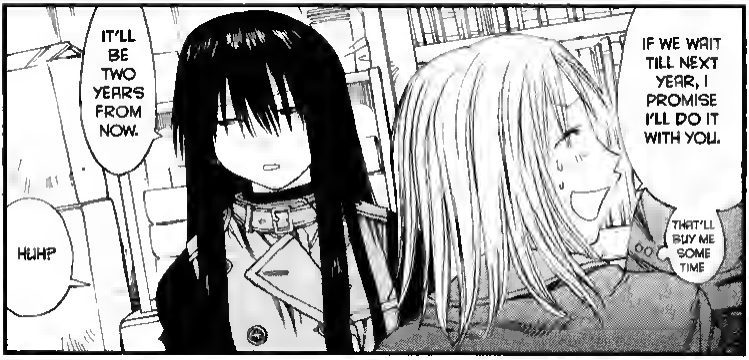



UH, YEAH, KIND OF.


WHAT?
OH, WERE YOU SERIOUS?


HMM...
HMM.. CELEBRATING GRADUATION, HUH?


YOU AND I ARE BOTH GRADUATING NEXT YEAR, SO WHY DON'T WE DO IT TOGETHER?
LET'S DO IT NEXT YEAR!

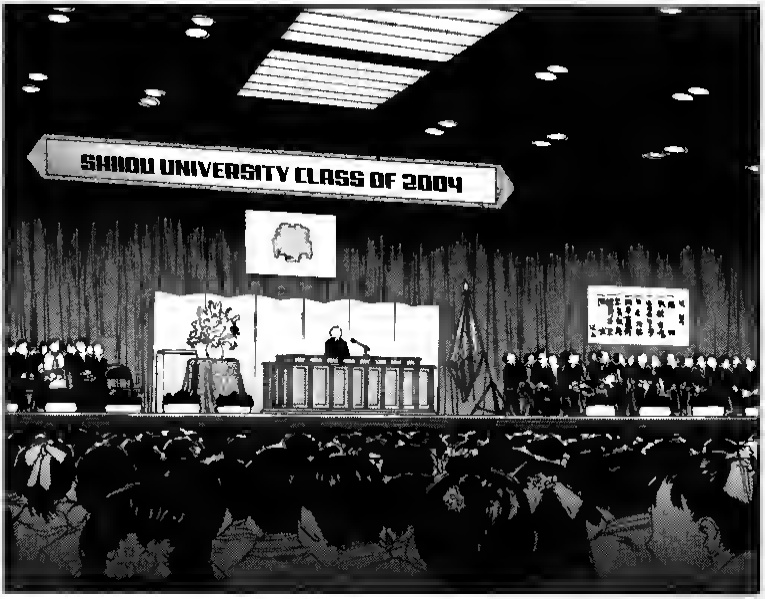

IT'LL BE TWO YEARS FROM NOW.
HUHP
IF WE WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR, I PROMISE I'LL DO IT WITH YOU.
THAT'LL BUY ME SOME TIME

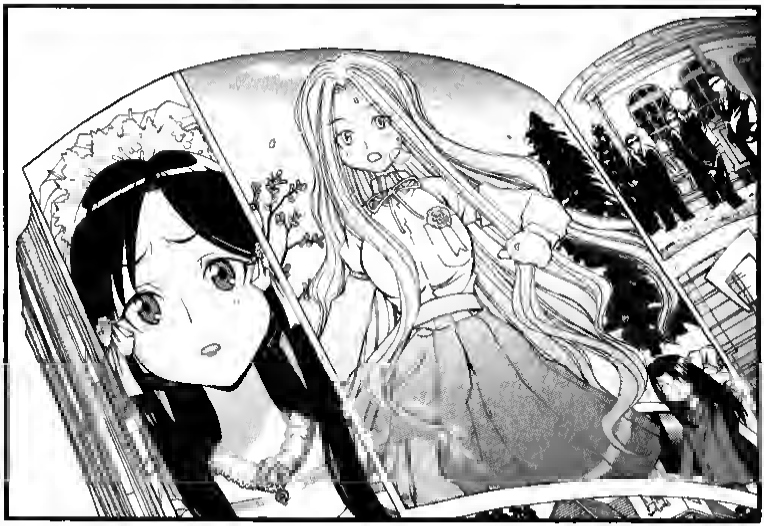

I WON'T GRADUATE FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS.
I TRANSFERRED HERE FROM THE STATES, AND I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CREDITS, SO...


EVERY-ONE'S...
...GONNA GRADUATE BEFORE ME.


WHY WORRY ABOUT IT NOW?
THAT'S A WHOLE YEAR AWAY.
DON'T BE SILLY.
RIGHT?
WHEN I GRADUATE, I'LL WEAR ALL THE COSPLAY COSTUMES YOU WANT ME TO.

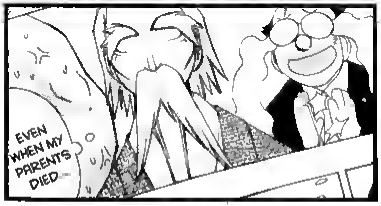

I HOPE YOU'LL STILL COME TO THE COMIC-FEST EVEN AFTER YOU GRADUATE.
I DON'T EVEN GO NOW.
WELL, OKAY, MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE.
GRADUA-TION..
CLASS OF 2004
GRADUATION CEREMONY

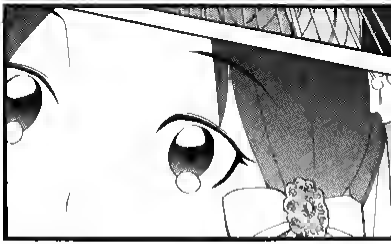

SHINOU UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2004



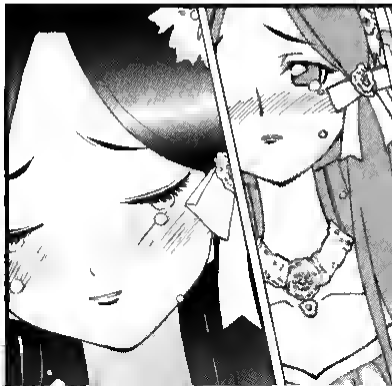



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

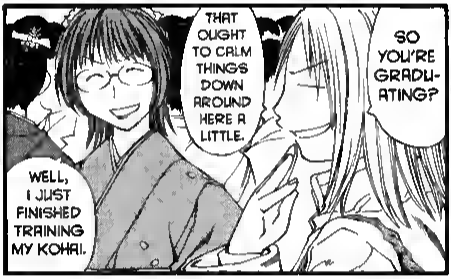

EVEN WHEN MY PARENTS DIED—

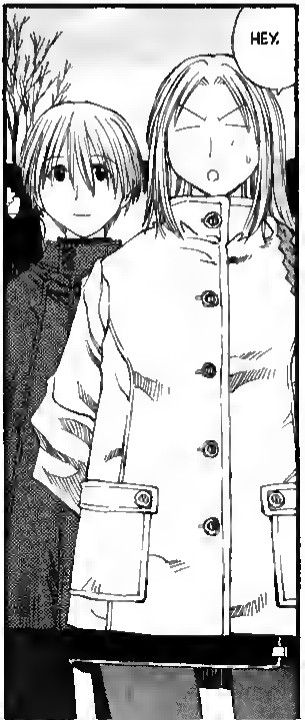


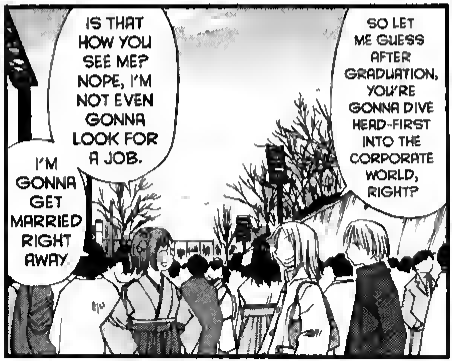

I WON'T CRY..



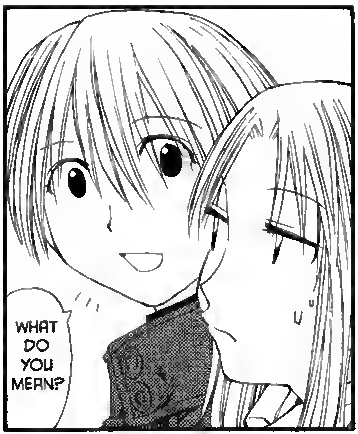

AH.

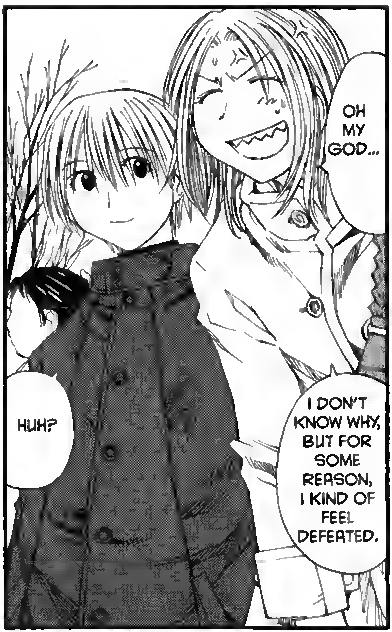

SO YOU'RE GRADUATING?
THAT OUGHT TO CALM THINGS DOWN AROUND HERE A LITTLE.
WELL, I JUST FINISHED TRAINING MY KOHAI.

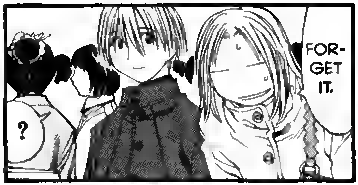

HEY.


SO LET ME GUESS AFTER GRADUATION, YOU'RE GONNA DIVE HEAD-FIRST INTO THE CORPORATE WORLD, RIGHT?
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME? NOPE, I'M NOT EVEN GONNA LOOK FOR A JOB.
I'M GONNA GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY


HUH? MARRIED?
YOU MEAN TO THAT GUY?
HE'S GOT A NAME, YOU KNOW.
CONGRATULATIONS
THANKS.
WELL, YEAH, IT IS HIM
HE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN ME, SO HE'S ALREADY GOT A JOB
BYE.
SO I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU GUYS.
IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOU.
HOW'S YOUR... ATHLETE'S FOOT?
...HOW...
HO, HO, HO, HO!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


OH MY GOD...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT FOR SOME REASON, I KIND OF FEEL DEFEATED.
HUH?


FOR-GET IT.
?




CHATTER CHATTER
WAIT, BUT THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT ARE BOTH GONNA GRADUATE AT THE SAME TIME.
YEAH, I KNOW. THEY'RE BOTH SUCH IMPORTANT CHARAC-TERS.
WHO KNOWS IF THE SERIES CAN HOLD UP WITHOUT THEM.
W-WELL, WHAT ABOUT RISA?
I LIKE HER.


YEAH, TYPICAL...
BUT I'D NEVER HEARD ANYONE CALL IT PART ONE UNTIL NOW
SO NOW THEY'RE CALLING THIS THE END OF PART ONE...


OH, HELLO.
OH, THERE YOU GUYS ARE.
IT'S GONNA BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MANGA.
BUT THAT MEANS THAT THIS IS PRETTY MUCH THE END OF THE WHOLE "STUDENT BODY TOURNAMENT" STORYLINE
Y YEAH, PROBABLY A BUNCH OF YOUNG FRESH MEN.
I GUESS THEY'LL BE INTRODUCING A TON OF NEW CHARACTERS.


HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YEAH, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT.
IF YOU ASK ME, ONCE THE PRESIDENT GRADUATES THE WHOLE SERIES IS OVER.


WELL....


I DON'T WANNA.
YOU TOO, SAKI-CHAN.
I'LL TAKE IT.
OH.
OH, SORRY WE'RE DISCUSSING KUJI-UN.
EVEN AT GRADUATION, IT'S PURE OTAKU TALK.
LET'S TAKE A PICTURE!
FLASH
FLASH
AH.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HURRY UP.
WHAT A NICE DAY
YEAH I'D SAY THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE OF THAT.
HE'LL PROBABLY JUST END UP BECOMING A "RONIN" AND HANGING OUT HERE FOR ANOTHER YE—
SAKI-SAN!
I DON'T KNOW. I ASKED HIM A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT HE KEPT GIVING ME THESE VAGUE ANSWERS.
SO, DID HE EVER FIND A JOB?
HEY, WHERE'S MADA-RAME?
HUH? HE SAID HE'D BE HERE.


OH, YOU'RE HERE.
WHAT IS IT?
HUH? YOU GOT A JOB?
IT'S A COMPANY CALLED SAKURA PIPE REPAIR—YOU KNOW, THEY DEAL WITH PLUMBING FIXTURES AND STUFF
QUIT TALKING BEHIND MY BACK.
I ALREADY FOUND A JOB
OH, HELLO.
HUH? SO YOU'RE GONNA BE FIXING WATER PIPES, MADRAME?
NO, I'LL BE WORKING IN AN OFFICE
I WON'T ACTUALLY BE DOING ANY PLUMBING
THEY NEEDED ONLY'S WHO WERE COMPUTER LITERATE.
IN TOKYO? OR IS IT NEAR YOUR HOMETOWN?
WELL, ACTUALLY...
WOW.
SO WHERE IS IT?
YEAH.


IT'S A TEN-MINUTE WALK.
IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE

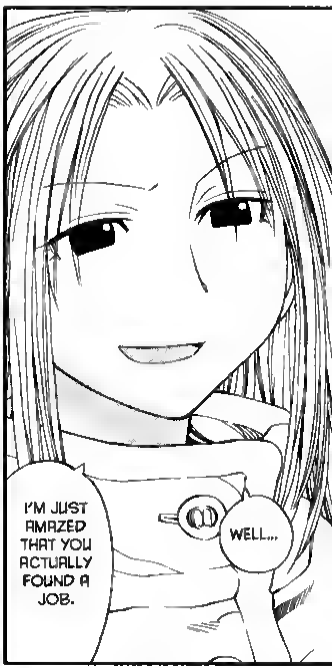

YOUR LIFE WON'T CHANGE AT ALL.
I WON'T HAVE TIME TO HANG OUT HERE!
OH YEAH, I THINK I'VE SEEN THEIR SIGNS AROUND HERE.
WHAT THE HELL? HOW CAN IT BE THAT CLOSE?
HUH?
YOU'LL BE HERE ALL THE TIME.


OH, SHUT UP.
YEAH, BUT IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THE NEST, YOU'LL NEVER GROW UP.
WELL, THE RENT IS CHEAP AROUND HERE.
I-I'VE HEARD OF GUYS WHO TRY TO LIVE CLOSE TO CAMPUS EVEN AFTER GRADUATION.




WELL, WE HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE THE FAREWELL PARTY STARTS. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I THINK I'LL GO HOME AND CHANGE.
OKAY, THEN LET'S MEET UP BACK AT THE GEN-SHIKEN.
THAT MY PIC!
NOT REALLY.

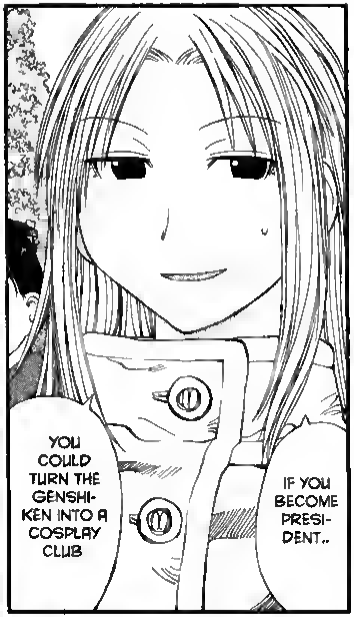

HA, HA.
YEAH.


I'M JUST AMAZED THAT YOU ACTUALLY FOUND A JOB.
WELL...

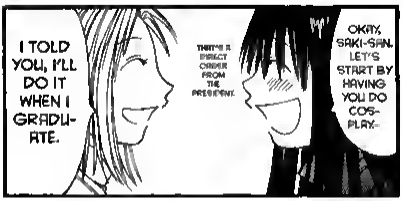

YEAH?
HEY, SASAHARA
ARE YOU STILL GONNA BE PRESIDENT?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA RESIGN IN YOUR SENIOR YEAR?
I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD OR ANYTHING.

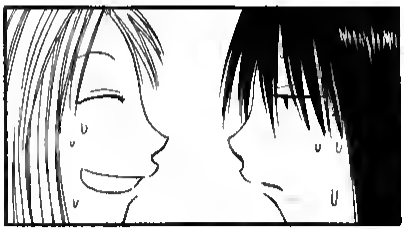

UH... WELL...
ACTU-ALLY...
I WAS THINKING ABOUT ASKING OHNO-SAN TO TAKE OVER
HMM...
HUH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?
HMM...
ME? PRESI-DENT?
N-N-NO WAY! THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HANDLE BEING PRESIDENT.
WELL, YEAH...
BUT...
YOU KNOW.
IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY, THEN IT'S COOL
LA LA LA...
I'M NOT BUSY, BUT...


!!


YOU COULD TURN THE GENSHI-KEN INTO A COSPLAY CLUB
IF YOU BECOME PRESI-DENT..


DON'T YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF ENCOUR-AGEMENT FOR HER, KASUKABE-SAN?
HUH? WHY?
WELL, YOU USUALLY DO.

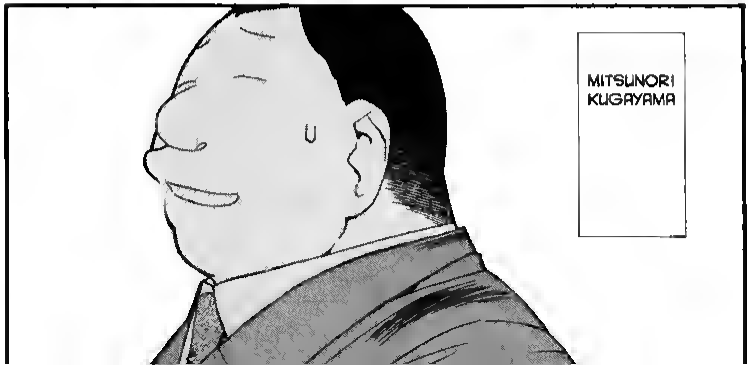

I TOLD YOU, I'LL DO IT WHEN I GRADU-ATE.
THAT'S A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE PRESIDENT.
OKAY, SAKI-SAN. LET'S START BY HAVING YOU DO COS-PLAY.



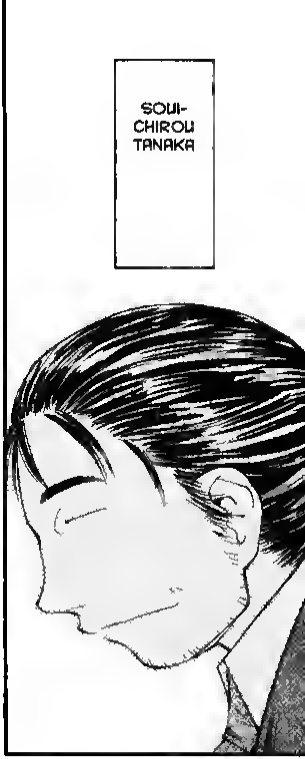

DROOL
WHOA.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, KASU-KABE-SAN?
I'LL DO IT.
HUH? IS THAT A BAD IDEA?

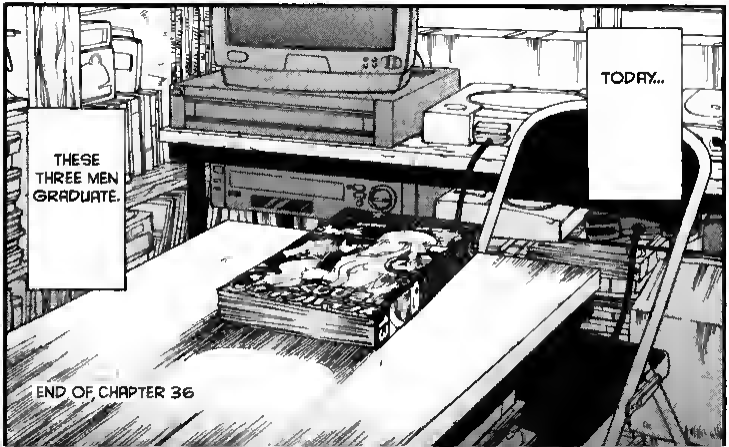

GLARE
!?


TAPPA! TAPPA!
CLOP CLOP
I-I THINK OHNO-SAN CAN HANDLE IT.
YEAH. SHE'LL MANAGE
AND OHNO-SAN'S CHASING HER
SHE RAN AWAY.

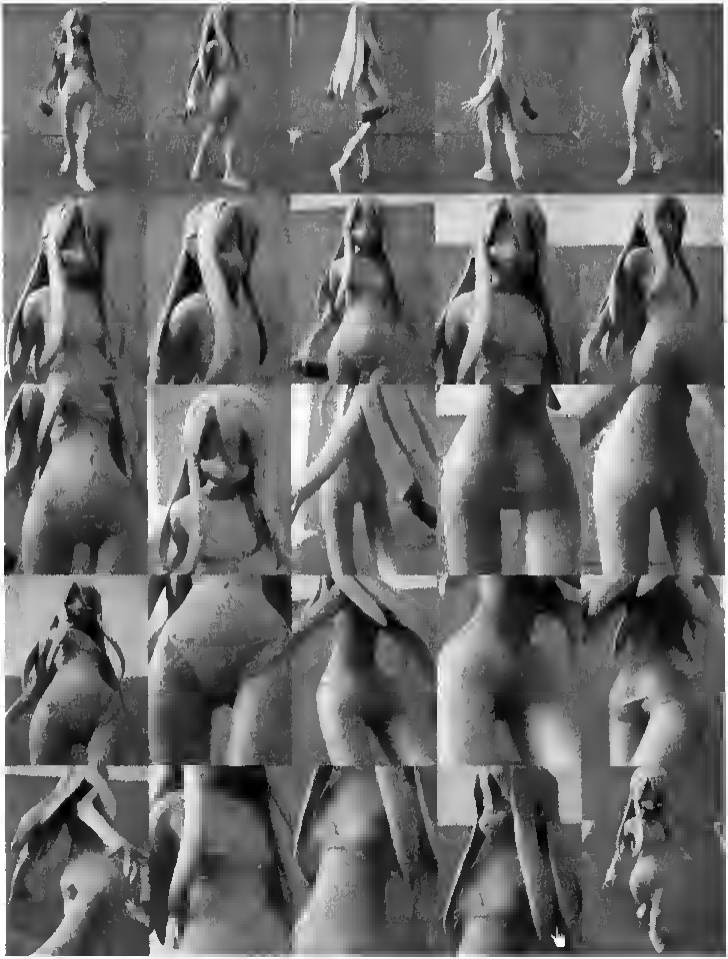

MITSUNORI KUGAYAMA


HARU-
NOBU
MADARAME

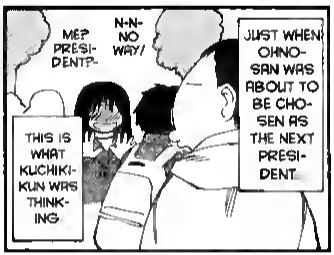

SOUI-
CHIROU
TANAKA

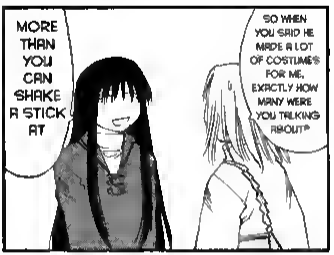

THESE
THREE MEN
GRADUATE.
TODAY...
END OF CHAPTER 36

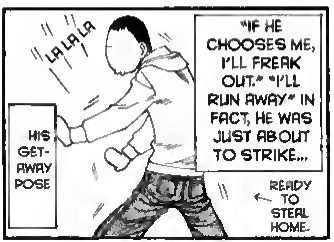
gallery (CLICK ON AN IMAGE TO ENLARGE IT)

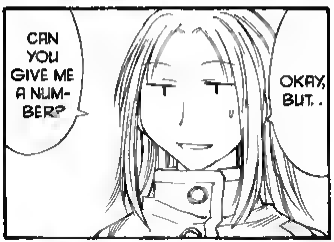


KUCHIKI


ME? PRESIDENT?-
N-N-NO WAY!
JUST WHEN OHNO-SAN WAS ABOUT TO BE CHOSEN AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT
THIS IS WHAT KUCHIKI-KUN WAS THINKING

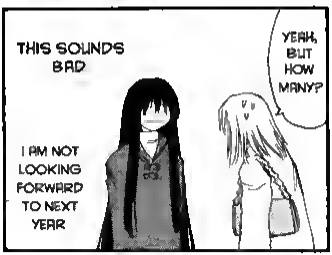

MORE THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT
SO WHEN YOU SAID HE MADE A LOT OF COSTUMES FOR ME, EXACTLY HOW MANY WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


LA LA LA
"IF HE CHOOSES ME, I'LL FREAK OUT." "I'LL RUN AWAY." IN FACT, HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO STRIKE...
HIS GET-AWAY POSE
READY TO STEAL HOME


CAN YOU GIVE ME A NUMBER?
OKAY, BUT. .


OH...
IT WASN'T ME.

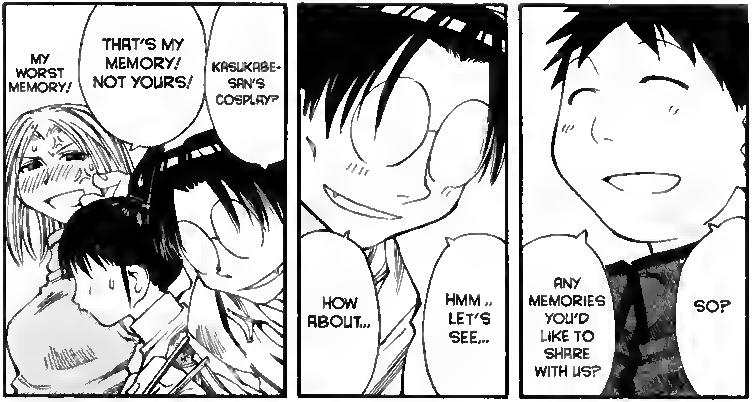

LET'S JUST SAY THAT WHEN YOU SEE HOW MANY THERE ARE, YOU'LL TOTALLY FREAK OUT.


THIS SOUNDS BAD
YEAH, BUT HOW MANY?
I AM NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

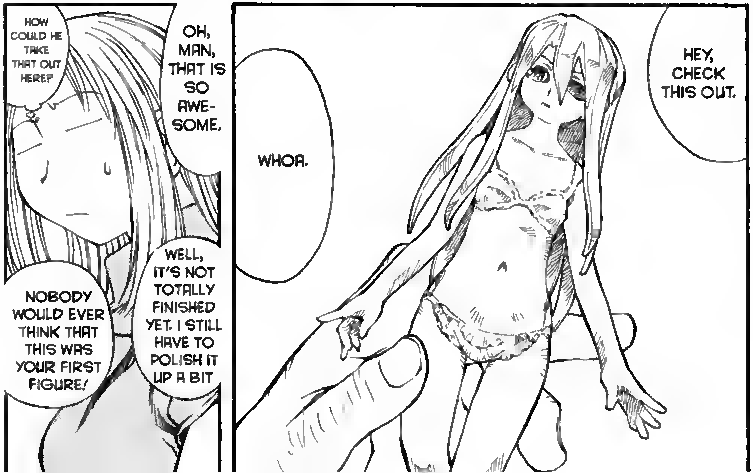
SPECIAL BONUS MANGA

A GRADUATION PARTY OF LOVE AND DESIRE




SO?
ANY MEMORIES YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?
HMM... LET'S SEE...
HOW ABOUT...
KASUKABE-SAN'S COSPLAY?
THAT'S MY MEMORY! NOT YOURS!
MY WORST MEMORY!

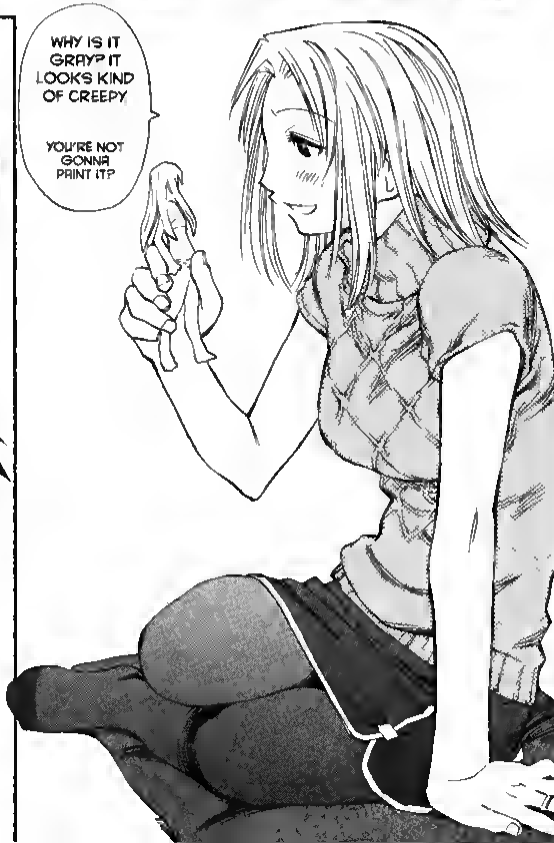

YEAH, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER YEAR TO GO BEFORE GRADUATION.
THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME TO COME UP WITH SOME GOOD MEMORIES.
ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


HEY, CHECK THIS OUT.
WHOA.
OH, MAN, THAT IS SO AWESOME.
HOW COULD HE TAKE THAT OUT HERE?
WELL, IT'S NOT TOTALLY FINISHED YET. I STILL HAVE TO POLISH IT UP A BIT.
NOBODY WOULD EVER THINK THAT THIS WAS YOUR FIRST FIGURE!


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING
ING THAT THING AROUND?
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT?
HE MODELED HER UNDERWEAR AFTER MY BRA AND PANTIES!
WAIT, SO YOU WEAR A LITTLE TRAINING BRA LIKE THAT ONE?
YEAH, RIGHT. WHY THE HELL WOULD I?
OHNO
?
WE DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.
WHA—?


OH, COME ON
NO, GO AHEAD AND BREAK IT, SAKI-SAN MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCI-DENT.
I PROM-ISE NOT TO BREAK IT
HUH?
LET ME SEE. LET ME SEE.


UMMM..
チラ GLANCE
PANTIES.
チラ GLANCE
SHE'S WEARING STOCK-INGS.


WHY IS IT GRAY? IT LOOKS KIND OF CREEPY
YOU'RE NOT GONNA PAINT IT?


HERE.
C-CAN I HAVE IT BACK NOW?
IT MAKES ME NERVOUS JUST WATCHING YOU HOLD THAT THING.
AND OGIUE-SAN'S WEARING A SKIRT TODAY.
THE JOINT'S DON'T MOVE?
PHEW I'M ALL SWEATY NOW.
AH.
SLIP
I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO THAT..
CRASH




THAT WASN'T ME... WAS IT?


IT'S GOD'S WRATH!!!


APPARENTLY, OHNO-SAN'S A LITTLE PISSED OFF.
END OF GENSHIKEN BOOK 6

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Kashimashi Musume, page 4

Kashimashi Musume are a classic female comedy trio.

"A job scouting girls...," page 19

In Japan, sleazy scouts stand in front of busy Tokyo train stations trying to talk girls into becoming porn stars.

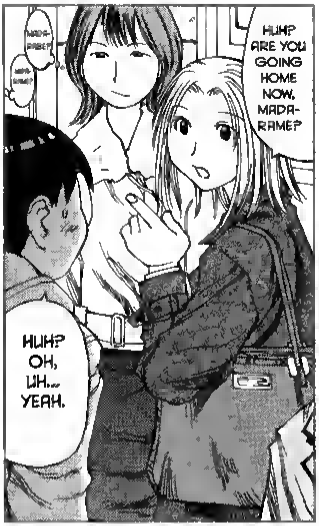


"He truly is amazing," page 30

According to the infinite wisdom of the Internet, Ohno-san's line, "He truly is amazing" is a reference to a scene from the anime *Space Battler Barudiosu.*

Madarame, page 39

Madarame is a rare name, so the girls are a bit confused. They're actually saying "Watanabe," which is a common name that sounds slightly similar to Madarame in Japanese.



Revolving sushi, page 42

Revolving sushi restaurants, known as *kaiten sushi*, are a popular, economical way to enjoy sushi. The sushi revolves around the counter on a conveyor belt.

Ootoro, page 42

Ootoro is the fattiest part of the tuna. This is the most expensive kind of sushi available. A single piece like the one Saki orders can cost anywhere from 5 to 12 dollars.



Shinjuku, page 43

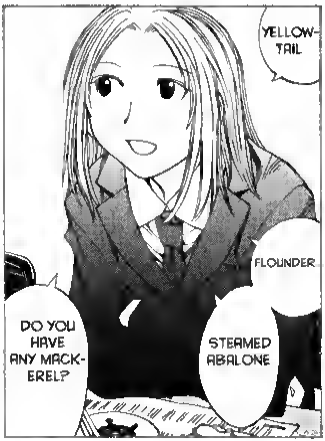
Shinjuku is a major business and entertainment district in Tokyo.

Ordering sushi, page 44

Saki is ordering some of the most expensive types of sushi, while Madarame is only ordering the cheapest.



*¥120



Tsundere, page 57

Tsundere is a type of anime/manga character. It usually refers to a girl who starts out mean and then suddenly turns sweet and lovey-dovey.

Haregan, page 61

Haregan is probably a play on the series *Full Metal Alchemist*, which is abbreviated as *Hagaren* in Japanese.

University entrance exams, page 109



Entry into Japanese colleges and universities is determined by individual school entrance exams. High school performance has very little correlation with whether a student is accepted into college. It's all about the entrance exams.

Kotatsu, page 109

A *kotatsu* is a sort of table with a heater underneath it. It's a common fixture in most Japanese households.



Joining clubs, page 129

It is common for students from all-girl community colleges to join clubs at major co-ed universities.

Akiba and Nippori, page 136

Akiba is short for Akihabara. The Nippori neighborhood is known for its fabric stores, so it's the perfect place for a cosplay designer.



Ronin, page 152

The term *ronin* originally meant a wandering, masterless samurai. Today it's often used to describe high-school students who fail their college entrance exams and have to wait another year. In this case, it refers to Madarame missing the first round of corporate hiring.



What Is *Project G*???

We're pleased to present a special treat for all you Genshiken fans! The pages that follow are excerpted from a tribute "doujinshi" that was printed as a limited edition of 10,000 copies and shrinkwrapped with the Japanese edition of *Genshiken* volume 6.

Technically, *Project G* is not a doujinshi. The term refers to a publication self-published by nonprofessional writers and artists, whereas all the contributors to *Project G* are professional manga creators and the 'zine itself was published by Kodansha. The contents, however, are pure doujinshi. Enjoy!


PROJECT G
AFTERNOON PRESENTS ' 2005 SUMMER
GENSHIKEN[DOUJINSHI]

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PROJECT G

AFTERNOON PRESENTS * 2005 SUMMER

GENSHIKEN [DOUJINSHI]

★ YOSHITOO ASARI ★




ARE YOU SERIOUS?
PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER
NOW JUST BEND FORWARD A LITTLE BIT.
THIS ISN'T EVEN FUNNY.
IF MY MOM SAW ME LIKE THIS, SHE'D HAVE A HEART ATTACK
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO KISS ME.
YEAH, RIGHT.
カリ
CLICK
チャ!
THE END

★TAKAKO SHIMURA★

A RIDE ON THE FANTASY EXPRESS - THE LAST STOP -

TAKAKO SHIMURA

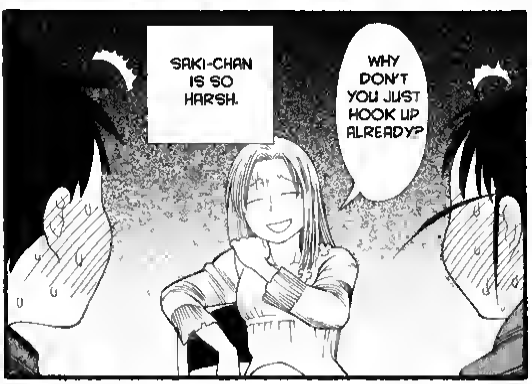


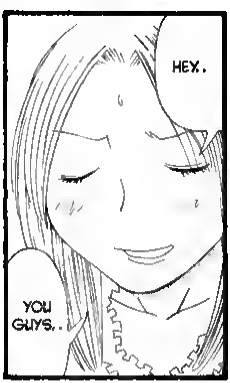

CLICK
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN!
NO
OH SORRY WERE YOU SLEEPING?
HUH? YOU THE ONLY ONE HERE, OGIUE-SAN?
FWUP
HEY, SASAHARA.
CLACK CLACK


IS THERE ANYONE YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
WELL...
UH... I DON'T KNOW
IF YOU COULD DRAW, DO YOU THINK YOU'D DRAW PICTURES OF GIRLS YOU LIKE?
HUH?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT .
I MEAN, ME AND MADARAME-SENPAI— DOING THAT? IT'S JUST—
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY
HOW DO I FEEL? HEH—
UH, UM. .
...BEING DRAWN LIKE THIS?


WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
てゆーかなんだコリャ


WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUMP FROM HERE! THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR!
おおもうだからだから


SAKI-CHAN IS SO HARSH.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HOOK UP ALREADY?


HEY.
YOU GUYS..

THE END

★ HIROSHI TAMARU ★



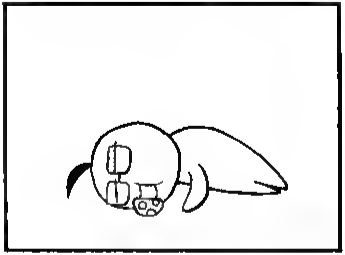


SHE USED TO LIVE IN THE STATES, DIDN'T SHE?


SHE TOTALLY DOES.
DOESN'T OHNO-SAN MAKE A PERFECT AXXXKA?
TOTALLY.
THIS IS CLASSIC.
WHOA, THAT'S AN OLD ONE
.....
UH-OH. THEY GOT ME
WAIT, HOW OLD ARE YOU, OHNO-SAN?
THIS HAS TO BE FROM BACK WHEN THAT SERIES FIRST CAME OUT.

THE END

POISONOUS DREAM









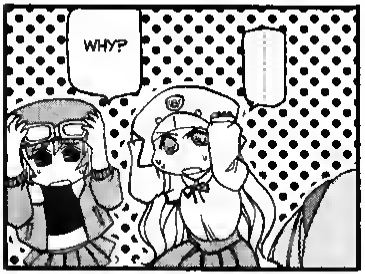
★ HEKIRU HIKAWA ★

UNBALANCED STRATEGY

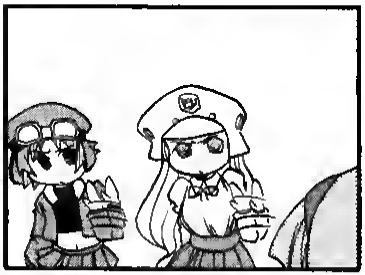


KUJIBIKI









THE BUCKET









THE END

TALES OF KUJI-UN









IF YOU TOOK AWAY KOMAKI'S SCARF...

.. MAYBE WE'D FIND THAT SHE'S HIDING SOME WEIRD MASCOT CHARACTER UNDER THERE . OR MAYBE IT WOULD REVEAL A HUGE HICKEY AND WE'D SEE A MORE EROTIC SIDE OF KOMAKI OR MAYBE WE'D SEE THAT SHE'S WEARING AN S & M-STYLE CHOKE COLLAR. WHICH ONE IS IT, SHIMOKU-SENSEI!?



★ RYUTA KANZUME ★

THE 121ST "COULD THEY ACTUALLY MAKE A MANGA ABOUT THE GENSHIKEN?" MEETING.

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M RYUTA KANZUME. HELLO.




MAN KADORK WOULD BE PERFECT TO DO HER VOICE
I BET PEOPLE WOULD MAKE A LOT OF DOUJINSHIS ABOUT HER
OGIWE-SAN...
OH YEAH, SHE COULD BE THE CUTE, FLAT-CHESTED KOWAI CHARACTER
BUT AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMEONE ?
LIKE O-O-O...
NEITHER OF THEM ARE VIRGINS
B-BUT I STILL DON'T THINK IT WOULD MAKE A VERY GOOD MANGA.
THERE'S NO SEXY MOE CHARACTERS.
WHAT ABOUT OHNO-SAN AND SAKI-SAN?
YEAH, BUT I MEAN... YOU KNOW.
GULP
YEAH, I BET THERE'D EVEN BE SOME OTAKU AT THE FEST WHO'D GET ALL PISSED AND YELL...
CLICK
ESPECIALLY AROUND THE RIO-KAN! SECTION.
DOUJINSHIS? YEAH, ALL THE GUYS AT THE COMIC-FEST WOULD TOTALLY LET THE SPOOGE FLY WHEN THEY GOT A HOLD OF THOSE
"HOW DARE YOU WHACK OFF TO MY OGIWE!"
SLAM
I-IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL
CHEER UP, SASAHARA
LEAVE ME ALONE
THE END

★ TAMAMI MOMOSE ★

GENSHIKEN GIRL
BY MOMOSE




SAKI-CHAN GETS LONE-SOME EASILY
♡
BY HIKARU NINOMIYA
I DECIDED TO GIVE IT A TRY
I'D ALWAYS JUST ASSUMED I'D HATE..
..THESE BOYS' LOVE TYPE COMICS, BUT.
SOME OF THEM ARE ACTUALLY NOT BAD.
FLASH
NO!
THOSE AREN'T BOYS' LOVE BOOKS THEY'RE YAOI!
YAOI MEANS...
OH, I KNOW, I KNOW.
DON'T SAY IT.
THEY'RE BOTH BOY-ON-BOY BOOKS, BUT...
YAOI BOOKS ARE PARODIES BASED ON ACTUAL MANGA, AND...
BOYS' LOVE COMICS ARE ORIGINAL STORIES.
RIGHT?
EVEN I KNOW THAT.
FWOOSH
CLOSE BUT NOT QUITE!


YOU SEE, YAOI IS...
UG.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YAOI IS THAT THE ARTISTS MUST HAVE A DEEP, PASSIONATE LOVE FOR THE ORIGINAL WORK
HUH?
NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY THEY STRAY FROM THE ORIGINAL STORY, THEY ALWAYS HAVE THAT LOVE TO KEEP THEM GROUNDED
EXACTLY SOME CLUBS CHANGE GENRES EVERY YEAR ACCORDING TO THE FLAVOR OF THE MONTH, BUT REAL...
HUH?
THIS IS FICTION.
WAIT, ARE YOU TWO ACTUALLY BEST FRIENDS?
NO
COFFEE BREAK
I DECIDED TO GIVE IT ONE MORE TRY.
WOW, THIS ABE-ON-MIHASHI SCENE IS PRETTY INTENSE.
YOU CAN TOTALLY SEE HIS.
NO!
HUH?
BUT THAT'S A MIHASHI-ON-ABE SCENE.
COSPLAY!
KASUKABE-SAN, THAT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT TYPE OF COSPLAY
SORRY...
YOU MEAN, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE WHO'S ON TOP?
UH...
HMM
OF COURSE IT DOES!
YOU ARE BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
AREN'T YOU?
NO!
THE END

MADARAME IS THE SEXIEST *MOE* CHARACTER IN THE GENSHIKEN.

NO, SERIOUSLY.



★ TAGRO ★


...CLUB
THE MANGA...
KEEP OUT
I CAN TOTALLY SEE YOUR COW-LICK WHEN YOU THROW YOUR HAIR BACK LIKE THAT.
YESTERDAY TANAKA—A THIRD RATE MANGA ARTIST WHO ALWAYS FEELS UNDER THE WEATHER WHENEVER THE SEASON STARTS TO CHANGE
HMM...
TOKIKO GREGORY —HIS ASSISTANT
CLICK!
YEAH, THIS IS ROOM 4523, THE MANGA CLUB
RING~ RING
I MEAN, EVERY DAY FOR FOUR WHOLE YEARS, I WALKED THROUGH THE VERY DOOR SHOWN IN THIS DRAWING
I KNOW THIS PLACE I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT THE SPLASH PAGE
HE'S READING GENSHIKEN BOOK ONE
THE YEAR 199X—CHUOU UNIVERSITY'S MANGA CLUB HEADQUARTERS

WE BACK IN THOSE DAYS... BOOKS A LOANS WE RENT AT, ROUND GLASSES, AN EVERGREEN JACKET WITH A BRITISH FLAG EMBROIDERED ON THE BACK AND A HUNGRY FOCUSED MY EES

I WAS THE WORST PRESIDENT IN CLUB HISTORY. I WAS SO BAD I CAN HARDLY EVEN TALK ABOUT IT.

GLUCK

WHO DO I BARGE IN WALKING INTO THE CLUB, I HAD TO TAKE A SHOT OF WHISKEY JUST TO SUMMON UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO GET THROUGH THE DOOR

I WANNA HEAR ALL ABOUT THE GENSHIKEN

ギク

SHOCK

ギク

SHOCK

OR WAS IT THE PRESIDENT THING?

HUH? DID I STRIKE A NERVE? WAS IT THE SEEDY PART? OR THE THING ABOUT YOUR NECK?

SO DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU'RE THE *REAL MADHERME?*

WELL, YOU DEFINITELY HAVE THE SAME SEEDY LOOK AS HIM. AND YOUR NECK'S REALLY LONG JUST LIKE HIS.

*LOOSELY BASED

REALLY? YOU MEAN WHEN YOU WERE IN COLLEGE, YOU WERE IN THE MANGA CLUB THAT GENSHIKEN IS BASED ON*?

NOODLES?

WAIT, WEREN'T YOU THE PRESIDENT OF THAT CLUB?

Hmmm

WHOA! THE CLUB BUILDING LOOK'S JUST L IKE THE REAL THING

BUT THIS CHARACTER'S LOOK'S AND ANNOYING PERSONALITY ACTUALLY RESEMBLE ANOTHER GUY FROM OUR CLUB.

OH YEAH, AND THIS GUY WHO'S IN ALL THESE DIFFERENT CLUBS. WE HAD A GUY LIKE THAT IN THE MANGA CLUB TOO. HE WAS IN OUR CLUB, BUT HE WAS ALSO IN THE FILM CLUB AND THE ANIME CLUB TOO

IT ALMOST MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M BACK THERE AGAIN

I CAN KIND OF GUESS WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ALL THESE CHARACTERS

WELL, IT'S SO CLOSE TO WHAT I ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED BACK THEN THAT IT'S KIND OF WEIRD TO READ ABOUT IT. THE DRAWINGS ARE TOTALLY DEAD ON, TOO

WOW, SO IT WAS A REAL TALENTED GROUP, HUH?

HMM...

THAT THEN TWO OF THEM WERE IN TO THE MEN-FANS UNTIL CHIHAYA WON GRAND CHAMPION

YOU'RE TRI-ENTED, TOO.

OH. I MEAN.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL A STRUGGLING ARTIST

HEH, HEH, HEH

THWINK

THAT'S NO GOOD, TAGUCHIN. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DOUGH, MAN

ONE OF THEM BECAME A BESTSELLING MANGA ARTIST! ANOTHER GUY IS A REALLY SUCCESSFUL MANGA EDITOR!

SO...

WHAT'RE ALL THOSE GUYS DOING NOW?

THEN HE SAID HE WANTED TO BET ME THAT OUR KOHAI WOULD GET A SERIES. OF COURSE, I HAD TO TAKE THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BET, AND BET AGAINST MY KOHAI.

THE OTHER DAY, ONE OF MY KOHAI FROM THE CLUB GOT A ONE-SHOT MANGA OF HIS PUBLISHED IN A WEEKLY COMIC. THEN I GOT A CALL FROM THE BESTSELLING ARTIST GUY. AND HE WAS LIKE "NOW I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU THAN HIM, TAGUCHI."

SO, ENDED UP NOT EVEN GETTING TO WRITE THE PUBLISHER TO SAY HOW COOL THE COMIC WAS.

THE END

Translation Notes

Tetsuya Chiba, page 188



Tetsuya Chiba is a manga artist from the '60s who is famous for his boxing series *Ashita No Jo*.

Honneamise, page 189

Honneamise is an anime movie.

Moe, page 189

The word *moe* or *moeru* literally means "bud" or "sprout," but otaku use the word to refer to certain anime/manga characters or character attributes they are fixated on or aroused by. Most non-otaku have no idea of this alternative meaning.

Riokani, page 190



Riokani is short for Rio de Carnival, a Nintendo slot machine game with sexy characters.